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Government employees can work part-time

By Lima Al Khalafawi

GOVERNMENT employees are exempted from the ban on part-time jobs, a senior official of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has said.

The ban is only applicable to private sector employees, Assistant Undersecretary for Labour Affairs Mohamed Al Shabman told the Arab Times yesterday.

Explaining the new labour regulations for the private sector, he said: "A government employee can work part-time after official working hours with the permission of the employer."

"Government employees who work part-time without permission will be considered violators."

Change

He warned that any private sector employee caught working for a second employer will be deported. The new regulations ban private sector employees from working for any other employer than the sponsor.

The regulations are applicable to all private sector employees—irrespective of whether they are labourers or managers.



Shabman

The new rules will be effective from March 22.

Explaining the three-year limit for change of residence permits, Al Shabman said that workers who have been legally staying in Kuwait for 10 consecutive years will be exempted from the rule for any of the following reasons:

- If the employer does not abide by the terms of the contract and regulations of the labour law.
- If the worker is assaulted by the employer or anyone deputising for him.
- If the worker's continuous

tion in the work threatens his/her safety or his/her health conditions.

- If the firm is dissolved, liquidated, closed, bankrupt, merged with another company or inherited by another or sold or other legal actions are instituted against the company.

- If the work contract is cancelled by the employer.

Under these conditions, the three-year pre-condition will not be applicable considering the worker's long service in the country.

Indemnity

Replying to a question on indemnity (end of service benefit), Shabman said that the rules for the private sector are as follows:

- A worker gets full indemnity after completion of work or if his contract was for a limited period or seasonal basis.

- If the work contract is not limited to a certain period and the employer sacks the worker, then the worker gets full indemnity.

- If the worker himself resigns after working for less than five years, he is not entitled to indemnity.

(Continued on Page 2)

30-km causeway to link Kuwait with Subiyah

By Jadranka Porter

KUWAIT will construct a causeway spanning the bay of Kuwait to provide quick access to the newly proposed town of Subiyah, some 90 kilometres north of Kuwait City.

The cost of the project is estimated at about KD 300 million, according to a source.

The Ministry of Public Works has asked several embassies

including British, French, Dutch and Japanese to provide them with a list of contracting firms capable of undertaking the project.

Expected

The 30-km causeway will stretch from the end of Ghazali Street in Shuwaikh straight across the bay to a point where it will join the main road to Subiyah.

It will be six kilometres longer

than the causeway linking Bahrain and Saudi Arabia which was opened in 1986.

The Bahrain-Saudi causeway was built by a Dutch firm, Ballast Nedam, which, industry sources said, could be expected to be among the contenders for the project.

A firm with experience in Kuwait is the French company Bouygues which constructed the causeway linking Kuwait with Bubiyan island. The firm is

included on the list of French contractors.

A spokesman for the French embassy said Kuwait had expressed satisfaction with the firm's performance. A construction industry source said that Bouygues built the causeway at a comparatively low cost.

The Japanese list of more than 20 firms includes the Kumagai firm which constructed the bridge over the Strait of Bosphorus, Turkey.

Dhaka alerts troops on Indian border

DHAKA, Jan 25, (AP): Bangladesh placed its border troops on alert after reports that an India-based secessionist group may try to enter the country, an official said yesterday.

The Interior Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Free Bangla Revolutionary Council based in the Indian city of Calcutta wants an independent homeland for Bangladesh's Hindus, who account for 10 per cent of the predominantly Muslim country's 110 million people.

He said the government had received reports that members of the group may try to march into Bangladesh beginning tomorrow, India's Republic Day.

Indiv officials in Calcutta said they were not aware of a group by that name. However, the officials said there was a group called Bangla Freedom Organisation made up of refugees who came to India from Bangladesh.

Watch

"The members of the Bangla Freedom Organisation are Bangladeshis, nationals and want to return to their homes," said an Indian official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Dhaka has alerted its border troops... to keep watch over the movements of anti-Bangladesh elements in the region," said the Interior Ministry official in Dhaka.

He said the Free Bangla Revolutionary Council is made up of Hindus who went to India in 1975, four years after Bangladesh won independence.

The group is seeking an independent homeland in eight southwestern districts bordering India's West Bengal state, the official said.

Hussein, Mubarak hold Cairo talks

CAIRO, Jan 25, (Reuters): King Hussein of Jordan arrived in Cairo for a short visit tonight and went straight into talks on Arab issues with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a fellow Arab moderate and partner in Middle East diplomacy.

The Jordanian monarch, who frequently reviews Middle East questions with Mubarak, was expected to brief him on his talks this week with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal and fair weather with light to moderate north-westerly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 2.00 am 3.00 pm
Low water: 9.00 am 9.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.41 am
Sunset: 5.21 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 17°C 63°F
Ahmad: 16°C 61°F
Faiyaka: 15°C 59°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 6°C 43°F
Ahmad: 9°C 45°F
Faiyaka: 10°C 50°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 18°C 64°F
Ahmad: 17°C 63°F
Faiyaka: 16°C 61°F
Minimum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 81 per cent
Ahmad: 75 per cent
Faiyaka: 72 per cent

PLO seeks clear US stand on Palestinian rights

ABU DHABI, Jan 25, (Agencies): The PLO will ask the United States to clarify what rights it thinks the Palestinian people are entitled to, a PLO leader said.

"We will ask the Americans to define more clearly their perspective of the legitimate Palestinian rights," PLO executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas said during a lecture in Abu Dhabi today.

"We will also ask for some balance in their positions," on the rights of Israel and of Palestinians, he said. Talks began last month between the PLO and the United States would resume in Tunis in a few days, he added.

Recognised

More than 70 countries have recognised a Palestinian state proclaimed in November by the Palestinian parliament-in-exile. The state's borders have not been defined.

Abbas also scotched reports that the Americans have demanded the PLO disband guerrilla groups and expel PLO figures who Washington considers terrorists.

But he did not rule out the possibility that the US might make such requests later.

The PLO will also ask the US administration for "free access" to the United States equal to Israel's and will call for pressure on Israel "to stop brutal practices against Palestinians."

He was referring to Israel's "iron fist" crackdown in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to quell a 13-month-old uprising by the 1.5 million Palestinians living there.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat today appealed for quick action by US President George Bush on Arab-Israeli peace, stressing that the key was with the US and not Israel.

Calling for world-wide backing for his peace initiative, Arafat said: "We hope the new US administration will contribute in pressuring Israel to bow to the voice of peace."

Arafat was addressing a press conference in Muscat before leaving for Europe after a three-day visit, his first ever to Oman. He has been enlisting the efforts of Sultan Qaboos in his quest for wide-scale diplomatic backing for the peace initiative.

Campaign

Arafat takes his campaign for international recognition and a Middle East peace conference to the European Economic Community tomorrow when he meets three EEC foreign ministers in Madrid.

Meanwhile, Bassam Abu Sharif, a senior aide to Arafat has given the British government assurances that the PLO does not want to take violent actions against Palestinians who have proposed ending the intifada.

Any spark might trigger new fighting, warns Iraq

BAGHDAD, Jan 25, (AP): Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayef Jasim warned today that "any spark" on the touchy border with Iran could trigger new hostilities despite the Aug 20 Gulf war ceasefire.

He told in an interview that the fractured Tehran hierarchy does not appear to be able to deliver on a peace treaty and stressed that until that changes, peace talks will remain deadlocked.

Jasim's comments came as special United Nations envoy Jan Eliasson met with Iranian leaders in Tehran in a bid to break a deadlock in negotiations between Tehran and Baghdad that has stymied a peace treaty to formally end the eight-year-old Gulf war.

Waiting

Eliasson was expected to arrive in Baghdad on Friday and Jasim said Iraq's leaders are waiting to hear what proposals he might bring from Tehran. He said he did not know what they might be.

The five-month-old Iran-Iraq negotiations, which followed an Aug 20 ceasefire in the Gulf war, have bogged down amid mutual recriminations and accusations of foot-dragging.

There have been no signs that either side is prepared to make a move that will break the impasse. While the ceasefire may have stopped the fighting, hostility between the two northern Gulf neighbours still runs deep.

UN military observers have said the ceasefire is holding, des-

pite claims of violations by both sides. But the stalemate in the peace talks appears to have hardened.

Iranian leaders have said they see no point in resuming the talks in Geneva unless the United Nations can guarantee some movement. Iraq, on the other hand, has accused Iran of massing troops along the 730-mile (1,080-kilometre) border.

With the talks stalled, neither side has yet withdrawn troops from the ceasefire line to the pre-war border, as stipulated in the ceasefire terms.

In an apparent reference to divisions within the Iranian hierarchy following Ayatollah Khomeini's unexpected decision on July 18 to accept a UN Security Council ceasefire resolution, Jasim noted: "We believe Iran does not have the ability to make a decision regarding peace."

"That's why they want to maintain the no-war, no-peace situation."

Jasim said that without a stable ceasefire, "any spark could lead once again to an unsolvable problem."

He denied Western press reports that Iraq was willing to make concessions to Iranian claims on the Shatt Al Arab waterway, Iraq's main outlet to the Gulf and the pre-war southern boundary between the two belligerents.

"The Shatt Al Arab is an Iraqi waterway," he said.

Colleges in Sind cities closed

KARACHI, Jan 25, (Reuters): Authorities closed schools and colleges in four Pakistani cities today after a gunbattle between rival ethnic groups killed three people and wounded 25 others at a college.

Police said troops were used to restore calm after teargas failed to disperse the rioters in yesterday's clash between Mohajir immigrants and native Sindhis in the southern town of Sukkur.

They said at least 34 people were arrested after the clash. The incident started with an argument about the setting up of a students' union office.

The rioters looted and burned shops.

The authorities said they had closed educational institutions in the Mohajir-dominated town of Sukkur and nearby Khairpur, Nawabshah and Shikarpur.

Fighting flares in Lebanon

Shiite rivals defy truce

BEIRUT, Jan 25, (Reuters): A ceasefire in Lebanon's long-running Shiite militia war was breached within hours today as negotiators prepared for talks on a political settlement to end the feud once and for all.

A woman and two other civilians were wounded when fighting flared between the Syrian-supported Amal and Iranian-backed Hezbollah across the hilltop villages of Jubah, Ain Buswar and Ain Qana in south Lebanon, witnesses said.

Both sides said exchanges of heavy artillery and mortar bombs died down later but tension remained high in the area, scene of some of the bloodiest clashes in recent weeks.

The battle broke out three hours after negotiators in Damascus announced an 8.30 am (0630 GMT) ceasefire to end 25 days of battles in Beirut and the south in which 142 people have been killed.

Agreed

The truce was agreed after 15 hours of talks, with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara and his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati meeting Amal and Hezbollah leaders separately.

Lebanese sources in Damascus said talks would continue tomorrow to try to reconcile the militias, competing to control the 1.5 million-strong Shiite community.

They said Velayati would return to Damascus tomorrow to prepare for a final settlement.

"During our last 15-hour meeting which ended this morning we reached some results," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying after arriving in Tehran.

"If both parties strengthen what has been gained their clashes will come to an end," Velayati said, apparently before hearing of the renewed fighting.

The flare-up in the southern region of Iqlim Al Tufah caught civilians by surprise. Many had returned to inspect their homes after news of the truce.

A Hezbollah spokesman accused Amal of opening fire first, but an Amal official in Damascus said Hezbollah started the trouble.

Political

Hezbollah said earlier it would observe the truce but doubted it would hold without a full-scale pact.

"We have to wait for the political results. If there is no political settlement the situation will not improve," a spokesman said.

Front-line fighters had earlier welcomed news of the truce. "We are for the accord... and every wise decision that ends the fighting among the Muslims and stops the killing of Shiites in the south," said Fadi, a 16-year-old Amal member near Jubah.

"We want this accord to end the political differences and give us both an equal political role," a Hezbollah member said.

Hezbollah, which emerged in 1984 with Iranian backing, seeks an Islamic state in Lebanon. Amal, with a more nationalist outlook, wants Muslims to share

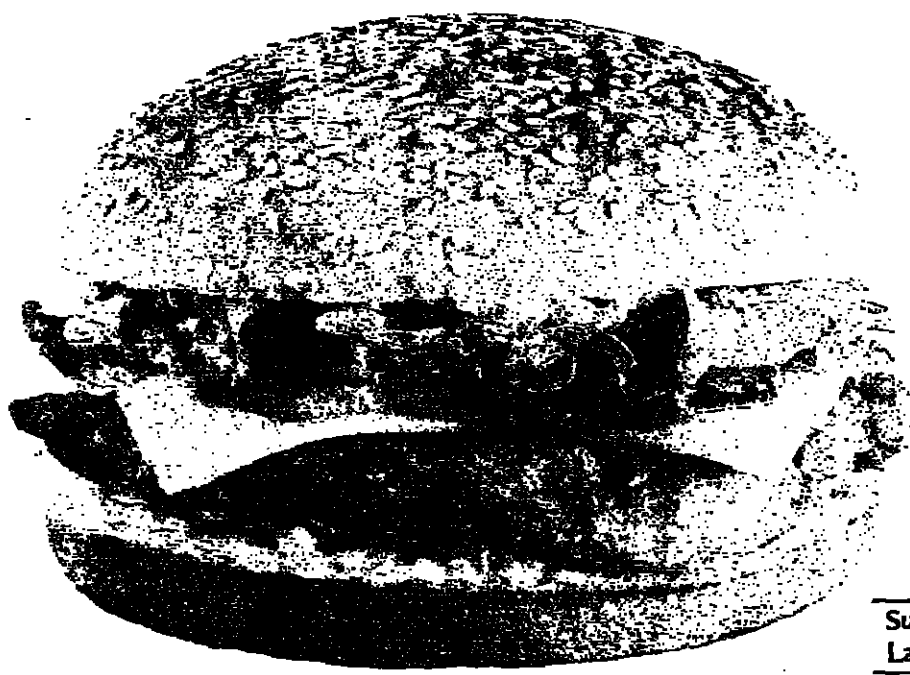
(Continued on Page 2)

India will open a consulate in Israel

KUWAIT, Jan 25, (KUNA): India will open a consulate in Israel, Radio Israel was monitored in Kuwait as saying today. Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao informed a visiting delegation of the American Anti-Defamation League of the decision in New Delhi yesterday.

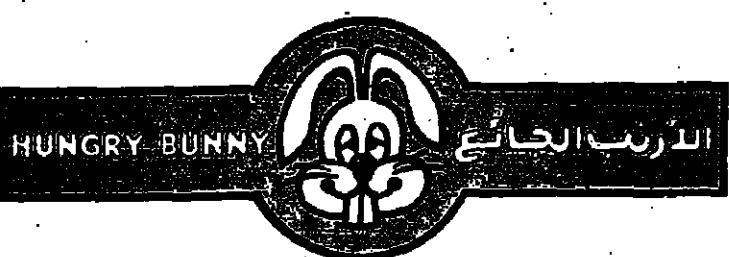
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See Page-5

Shiite rivals defy truce

(Continued from Page 1)

power with the country's Christians who now dominate the political system.

Amal has been trying to drive Hezbollah from its remaining footholds in Iqlim Al Tufah, from where the pro-Iranians launch attacks on Israel's nearby security zone. Amal believes such attacks only bring retaliation against southern villages.

In Tel Aviv, a top Israeli policymaker said today his country would face a very serious problem if the Hezbollah gained the upper hand in bitter inter-Muslim feuding in south Lebanon.

Uri Lubrani, the defence ministry's co-ordinator for Lebanon, did not rule out Israeli intervention to prevent Hezbollah — from making gains at the expense of Amal.

Lubrani said Israel had a strong interest in preventing the more radical Hezbollah, committed to attacking Israeli forces and their South Lebanon Army (SLA) allies, from establishing strongholds near the security zone.

Government employees

(Continued from Page 1)

to any indemnity. If the worker himself terminates his contract after more than five years of continuous work, the indemnity will be:

● Ten days pay for each year of the first five years, and 15 days pay for the following years. These payments are applicable only to workers who receive daily or weekly payments, or those working on hourly basis.

● Fifteen days pay for each year of the first five years, and one month's pay for each of the following years for workers who are paid on a monthly basis.

He added that Kuwaitis working in the private or government sector are insured through the Public Institution for Social Security, while non-Kuwaitis working in the government sector get end of service benefit through the Civil Service Commission.

In all cases, calculation for end of service benefits are calculated according to the last wage of the employee.

Rescuers dig through quake mudslide with no hope of finding survivors

SHARORA, Soviet Union, Jan 25 (Reuters): Rescue workers in Soviet Tajikistan dug through sludge today with no hope of finding survivors of a landslide caused by an earthquake that killed nearly 300 people.

Officials in the region near the Afghan border said 274 were known to have died in the quake which triggered a landslide that set more than 20 metres (60 feet) of mud thundering down on homes in at least three villages.

Earlier in the week, officials had put the death toll at more than 1,000, but many more residents succeeded in fleeing than was first thought.

Warning
A total of 207 victims were in Sharora, a third of them buried when a waterlogged hillside collapsed over the village within seconds of Monday's early morning earthquake.

Local officials said the remainder, including 23 children, were killed in Okulibolo, where residents had more warning to escape the wall of mud. But some

people said more victims could still be underneath.

Rescue teams using picks and shovels, backed by excavators, pressed on to remove the brown, sodden clay.

But there was none of the frenzy that seized relief workers after last month's earthquake in Soviet Armenia where survivors were heard screaming under the rubble for days after the tremor.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said the figure of 274 was not exact. But he said the final figure would not exceed 300.

Rabi Khabibov, a farmworker in Sharora, said his family only just managed to flee the surging mud.

"When we first heard the earthquake, we all rushed out into the street," he said, gesturing at his mud-covered house, its doors and windows burst open under the pressure of the deluge. "Half a minute longer and it would have been too late."

Others were less fortunate. "Eight people — the parents

and their six children — all dead," said Makhmad Marodov of his cousin's family.

Bulldozers shifted mounds of earth to reveal a few shattered chunks of masonry and twisted black water pipes on the hillside where the family's house once stood.

Dozens of lorries waited outside the village to be loaded up with mud as rescue workers continued clearing the debris.

Improvised soup kitchens in the street served up helpings of the local carrot and mutton dish, to small gatherings of men in brightly quilted coats and women in ankle-length trousers.

Small crowds gathered around an excavation where some bodies had just been unearthed.

The official Tass news agency said rescue workers had abandoned all hope of finding survivors in the stricken area. The entire Central Asian republic observed a day of mourning, with flags flying at half mast, restaurants closed and cultural events cancelled.

Israeli-SLA troops storm houses in Shebaa

Lebanese expelled from security zone

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon, Jan 25 (Reuters): Fourteen Lebanese villagers arrived in the eastern Bekaa valley today and said Israel had expelled them and their 26 children from their homes in the Israeli security zone.

Israeli military sources said those expelled were 35 adults accused by the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) of conspiring against the militia. They said the SLA carried out the expulsions.

One woman among the 14, Amal Nassib, told reporters in the Bekaa village of Marj Al Zohour: "They forced us of our homes. Our only guilt was our opposition to their occupation."

The youngest to be deported was 12 months old, the eldest in his 80s, said the villagers, mostly Sunni Muslims. They were still in their pyjamas and carried small plastic bags.

They said a joint Israeli-SLA force of 125 men stormed their houses in the village of Shebaa at dawn and ordered them out of

the border strip, giving them just 10 minutes to comply.

They said they were deported after staging a demonstration yesterday to protest against an Israeli drive to recruit them to the SLA.

"The Israelis and SLA opened fire at the demonstration, but no one was hurt," said Assad Khalil, 80.

The villagers said Norwegian troops of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) stationed in Shebaa tried but failed to stop their deportation.

They later issued a statement urging UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to help them return to their homes and to end what they called Israeli terrorist measures.

Deployed

The statement called on Perez de Cuellar to strengthen the role of UNIFIL troops, who deployed in the south in 1978 to restore the authority of the Lebanese government there.

Israel set up the border strip in

1985 to protect itself from attacks by Palestinians. A few hundred Israelis and some 2,800 SLA militiamen patrol the zone which is inhabited by 180,000 Lebanese, two-thirds of them Muslim and the rest Christian or Druze.

It was the second expulsion of Lebanese from the zone since early January when Israel forced out 29 people, prompting a protest to the UN Security Council.

Economy plan

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 25 (Reuters): The financially strapped United Nations yesterday unveiled a \$416 million plan to bring Namibia to independence from South Africa on April 1, 1990.

This was substantially less than earlier estimates, which ran as high as \$750 million for 7,500 peacekeeping troops and a large civilian administrative staff to supervise and control fair and free elections in the vast territory.

Israel has 150 nuclear weapons

LONDON, Jan 25 (KUNA): Israel has a "secret arsenal" of 150 nuclear bombs and warheads, it was reported here today.

In an exclusive report, the Daily Express newspaper said that it is also believed that Israel possesses neutron weapons and "the power to drop them on targets as distant as Libya, Iran and Russia."

The mass-circulation newspaper pointed out that the huge "atomic armory is disclosed in a new study by British physicist, Frank Barnaby, after a detailed interview with technician Mordechai Vanunu, now in an Israeli jail after leaking Tel Aviv's defence secrets."

The paper quoted Barnaby as suggesting that Vanunu might have been "deliberately allowed" to reveal details of the secret atomic plant at Dimona, in the Negev desert, "so that the world could be certain that Israel has joined the nuclear club."

Refused

The Daily Express recalled that Israel officially has always refused to confirm possessing nuclear weapons.

The British expert also believed that an "elaborate Mossad secret service operation to kidnap Vanunu was a powerful confirmation of his story."

Earlier he leaked Israeli nuclear secrets to the British newspaper the Sunday Times.

Unity in diversity

NEW DELHI, Jan 25: The Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi said in a message on the occasion of Republic Day that there are people of different religions and ethnic groups in India, but amidst the diversity, there is a strong feeling of oneness and unity.

"Our people have worked unitedly to preserve and further the ideas of democracy, secularism and socialism enshrined in our constitution," Rajiv said.

He added: "The efforts of our people have resulted in tremendous progress in numerous areas. The pace of development in agriculture and industry has been heartening. Significant advances have been made in science and technology which have been put to good use in improving the quality of life of our people."

Cherish

"While adapting to modernisation, our people continue to cherish the rich cultural heritage and immutable values which have carved a niche for India among the nations of the world."

"The progress made by India and her people fills us with optimism for the future. On the occasion of the Republic Day celebrations, I send my best wishes to all Indians abroad."

36 killed, 67 injured in Argentine clash

Alfonsin declares all-out war on leftist subversion

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Jan 25 (AP): President Raul Alfonsin declared an all-out war on leftist subversion in response to a "nightmare" guerrilla attack and bloody siege at a suburban Army base that left at least 36 dead and 67 wounded.

As troops continued to scour the smouldering rubble of the ravaged base, Alfonsin called the attack in a last night speech "a new challenge that I believe is the most serious and decisive of my administration."

Ruins

Alfonsin earlier toured the ruins of the 3rd Infantry Regiment's barracks in the working-class suburb of La Tablada, northwest of Buenos Aires. The base was seized by heavily armed civilians early on Monday, and retaken a day later by Army and police forces who used howitzers, mortars, grenade and machinegun fire in a spectacular battle that reduced several of the base's brick buildings to charred shells.

In his nationally broadcast speech the President recalled his impressions: "It was a nightmare. Death, once again death. The brutality, the barbarity." At least seven Army soldiers and one policeman were killed and 63 soldiers and policemen were injured, he said. Among the base's attackers, 28 were killed and 14 were captured alive, he said.

There could be more bodies in the rubble," Alfonsin added.

He described the attackers as "irregular elements of ultra-leftist affiliation." He cited a written proclamation found at the base after it was retaken by the Army as "evidence of their hallucinations."

Proclamation

A copy of the proclamation given to reporters said the base was seized to pre-empt a purportedly imminent coup by right-wing Army officers.

"We are fed up with the arrogance of the military," it said. Alfonsin said some of the invaders had been identified, and that the information would be disclosed when the courts

approved. At least two of the dead extremists were women, he said, and one of those captured alive, according to witnesses.

Lopez said some of the weapons used in the attack were of Chinese and Soviet manufacture.

Authorities said the commandos apparently intended to steal weapons from the base and quickly flee, but were cut off by police and troops.

Bravery
He praised the soldiers' bravery in retaking the base, and said: "I want to tell them that this is also my fight... and I will fight it to the end." Looking on as he spoke were his military chiefs of staff.

The country's right-wing military has presented a constant headache for Alfonsin's government, which took over in 1983 to end seven years of armed forces dictatorship. In the past 21 months he has faced three uprisings by rightist elements in the Army, angered by the prosecution of military officials for human rights abuses.

Woman loses job, wins a fortune

LONDON, Jan 25 (AP): A woman who lost her job on Monday, and whose husband was facing unemployment, has become a millionaire two days later by winning big in the soccer pools.

Shelia Marshall of Normanston in Central England, was due to get a check today for £634,000 (\$1,122,180) from the Littlewoods Organisation.

On Monday, Marshall had been told that the company where she had worked for nine years was closing. Her husband Alan also was facing unemployment because of the imminent closing of the coal mine where he works.

The 49-year-old woman said she used the family's star signs — Gemini, Virgo and Pisces — to help pick the lucky numbers.

Marshall, 48, said the couple had been planning a silver wedding anniversary trip to Rio de Janeiro two years ago, but could not afford to go. "Now it's very much back on the cards," he said.

The Marshalls shared a £2 million (\$3.54 million) payout from Littlewoods. The other winners were not identified, at their request.

Dissidents

PRAGUE, Jan 25 (UPI): Authorities have filed criminal charges against eight dissidents for attempting to commemorate the suicide of a student who opposed the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion, activist sources said today.

Karunanidhi to form government on Friday

Congress cabinet in Mizoram

NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (AP): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's ruling Congress Party formed a government in northeastern Mizoram state yesterday, news reports said, one of seven states it won in state elections last week.

A nine-member Congress government headed by Lalhansawia was sworn in to form the government in this remote state, one of three where elections were held to the state legislatures on Saturday. Press Trust of India news agency said.

The Congress Party won 22 of the 39 seats declared in the 40-member legislature, PTI said. Polling in one constituency was countermanded after violence of election day. The MNF won 14 seats, and a party aligned to the Congress won 2 seats. One seat went to an independent legislator.

Important

The Congress Party won elections in northeastern Mizoram and Nagaland, both of which border Bangladesh and Burma, and have a history of tribal

unrest and insurgency, but were wiped out in southern Tamil Nadu state.

Saturday's elections were important for Rajiv and his Congress party, pitted against popular regional parties in all three states, as a final battle before national elections in June 1990.

After results were tallied, President's rule was revoked in all three states, a news bulletin on government television said.

In Nagaland, the Congress beat the National People's Conference, winning 32 of 55 seats, results for which have been declared so far. United News of India, another news agency said. The conference won 23 seats in the state legislature.

UNI and PTI said the Congress ministry in the state, headed by S.C. Jamari, would assume office today. The DMK, headed by Muthuvel Karunanidhi, will take office on Friday in Tamil Nadu, news agencies said.

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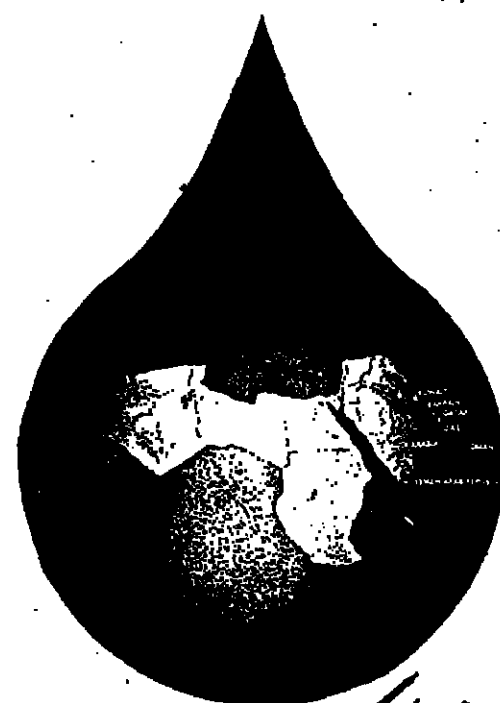
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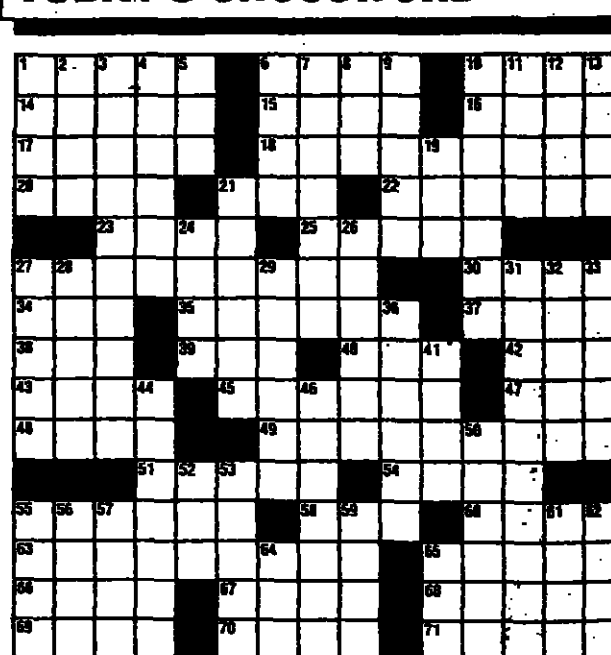
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TODAY'S CROSSWORD



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|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS |
| 1 Comic bit? | 1 Leeward island | 70 Mini racing car |
| 6 "girl" | 2 Nit's cousin | 71 Ponies up |
| 10 Epic poems | 3 Sharp | 32 Trunk, to a |
| 14 Cognizant | 4 Peaceful | 33 Burmese, e.g. |
| 15 Hang fire | 5 Favorites | 36 Filmmaker's |
| 16 Bucks | 6 "...two peas in | second try |
| 17 "Carmen" | in — | 41 Instance |
| composer | 7 Plausible | 44 Cancel |
| 18 Sharp | 8 Explosive | 46 Pile-dieu user |
| 20 Like — of | letters | 50 Put plants |
| bricks | 9 Improvised | in tempor- |
| 21 Vitamin letters | 10 Smuggled in | ary beds |
| 22 Some oranges | 11 Wampum | 52 Kind of |
| 23 Take a cab | 12 Make eyes at | blanket |
| 25 Sharp of | 13 Gal of song and | 53 Sharp as — |
| "Vanity Fair" | others | 55 Exchequer |
| 27 Sharp | 19 Inuit: Abbr. | 56 Sacramento's |
| 30 "I could — | 21 Mail again | arena |
| horse" | 24 Prima donna | 57 River into the |
| 34 Curtain fixture | 25 "Five Foot Two" | Caspian |
| 35 Thin surface | — Blue | 59 Benjamin or |
| 37 Brit. awards | 27 Gussy up | Rebecca |
| 38 Part of the UK | 28 Musical form | 61 Golden — |
| 39 Picnic buttinsky | 29 Involve | 62 Sp. ladies |
| 40 Jiff | | 64 "— Clown" |
| 42 Prefix with corn | | 65 One for the |
| or color | | books? |
| 43 River to the | | |
| Fulda | | |
| 45 Sioux | | |
| 47 Pretoria's land: | | |
| Abbr. | | |
| 48 Bump | | |
| 49 Sharp | | |
| 51 Lowland | | |
| 54 Sharp | | |
| 55 Tap | | |
| 58 Ram's dam | | |
| 60 Blokes | | |
| 63 Sharp | | |
| 65 Sharp | | |
| 66 Scrutinize | | |
| 67 Average grades | | |
| 68 Noted caravel | | |
| 69 Sharp | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

POPS MELTED FIEW
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Akihito (second from right) meets with envoys from 110 countries at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. (Reuter wirephoto)

New Japanese emperor meets envoys

TOKYO, Jan 25, (Reuters): Japan's newly installed Emperor Akihito met with envoys from 110 countries today, the last day of a week-long series of rites for his father, the Emperor Hirohito.

Pierre Nelson Coffi, Ivory Coast ambassador and dean of the Tokyo diplomatic corps, read out a brief speech expressing grief for the Jan 7 death of Hirohito and greetings for Akihito and his wife, Empress Michiko.

The ambassadors and charges d'affaires, together with their spouses, shook hands with the imperial couple and then paid their respects in front of Hirohito's sealed coffin.

The state funeral for Hirohito, who died at age 87, is scheduled to begin on Feb 24.

The funeral of Hirohito next month looks like being one of the biggest diplomatic events of the decade, attracting a pride of presidents and ranks of royals.

Hirohito, was the world's longest-reigning monarch, and representatives of at least a dozen other royal families around the world are scheduled to attend the Feb 24 funeral.

In fact, it could be the biggest gathering of the world's royalty since Britain's Prince Charles got married in 1981.

Japan's Foreign Ministry sent invitations to over 160 countries, asking them to reply by Jan 24.

By this morning, 62 countries had confirmed they would send envoys and Foreign Ministry officials said they expected over 100 countries to be represented on the day.

The Soviet Union is one of the few major countries still to announce who will attend, but early speculation that Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev could use the chance to make another splash on the world diplomatic scene has died down.

Bonn police raid firms linked to Libyan plant

OFFENBURG, Jan 25, (Reuters): West German investigators today raided 14 firms suspected of helping Libya build a factory that US officials say will make poison gas, a prosecutor's spokesman said.

One of the companies raided was Imhausen-Chemie, a chemical manufacturer at the centre of a scandal over suspected violations of export laws in the delivery of materials for the Libyan project, the spokesman said.

He told Reuters that customs investigators began lightning searches of the firms' premises as well as households of company officials.

The prosecutor's office in the southwestern city of Offenburg is in charge of West Germany's criminal inquiry into the Libya affair, which has shaken the Bonn government and strained relations with the United States.

Libya insists the factory is intended to produce only medicines, but the United States says it has been built to produce chemical weapons.

"The search action is directed against firms and responsible individuals who are suspected of taking part in the Libya business of Imhausen-Chemie," said Hubertus Voegelé, the Offenburg prosecutor's office spokesman.

Voegelé said there had been no arrests "but this is not to be expected" at this time.

He declined to comment on whether the raids were the result of explicit information about various companies' role in the Libyan plant given to investigators last week by an Imhausen-Chemie technical draughtsman.

However, Voegelé confirms a television report that the Imhausen employee, Klaus Hesse, had told prosecutors the firm had hidden papers documenting its links to the plant in three places away from company premises.

Voegelé did not identify the other companies raided.

More than 30 West German chemical, steel, engineering and other industrial firms have been named in media reports on the export scandal, including a subsidiary of the state-owned steel concern Salzgitter.

Troops clear way for food supplies

Afghans kill 377 rebels

MOSCOW, Jan 25, (Reuters): Afghan forces attacked and killed nearly 400 Muslim rebels after they refused to allow food supplies to pass through a mountain pass to the beleaguered capital Kabul, the official Soviet news agency Tass said.

It said 377 rebels were killed in the attack and Afghan troops seized several strategic points near the Salang Pass on the main highway linking Kabul with the Soviet border.

Western diplomats in neighbouring Pakistan said Afghans in Kabul had fought over food as the remaining Soviet troops prepared to leave Afghanistan. They said an Army sergeant was shot dead and a child died of cold while queuing for food and residents were overwhelming Soviet soldiers distributing food.

Tass said the order to attack was given after rebel leader Ahmed Massoud, who has fought government and Soviet troops from the strategic Panjshir Valley, refused to discuss allowing food convoys to pass.

It had been "desperately vital in these circumstances to adopt all available means to ensure normal supplies for the population of Kabul and halt the criminal acts of anti-government groups," Tass said.

The agency did not make clear whether the road linking Kabul and the border had been reopened but it said the Afghan command had issued a new appeal to guerrillas near Salang to stop raiding convoys.

mal supplies for the population of Kabul and halt the criminal acts of anti-government groups," Tass said.

The agency did not make clear whether the road linking Kabul and the border had been reopened but it said the Afghan command had issued a new appeal to guerrillas near Salang to stop raiding convoys.

US reaction

The United States yesterday accused the Soviet Union of breaking a peace pledge by waging a campaign of heavy bombing in Afghanistan just three weeks before its forces were due to withdraw from that country.

"The Soviet Union continues a practice of heavy bombardment of Afghanistan on a daily basis," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said at a news briefing.

"This is a clear violation of Soviet assurances to us not to engage in offensive operations during the withdrawal."

"In addition to bombing runs conducted from bases in Afghanistan, numerous sorties each day

are being flown from bases inside the Soviet Union," Redman said.

He said the Soviet bombing was "unacceptable," stating that anti-government Afghan rebels had been showing restraint to allow Soviet forces to withdraw and that Moscow should do the same.

Redman said the United States still expected the Soviet Union to keep its pledge to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan by Feb 15.

Supply

Meanwhile, Soviet troops, shouldering what one general calls Moscow's new task of feeding the capital, distributed 275 tons of airlifted flour and heating fuel to more than 5,000 Afghan workers today.

The distribution, conducted in the presence of Western correspondents, was orderly compared with unruly scenes when Afghan soldiers distributed food and heat back crowds from Soviet personnel carriers earlier this month.

Soviet officials said the supplies will continue as needed after a Feb 15 pullout date set by the

UN-brokered accord for the Soviet withdrawal from the war-torn country.

But it remained unclear whether Moscow would be able to continue feeding Kabul's population of 2.2 million if Muslim guerrillas should mount an economic blockade aimed at strangling Afghan President Najib's government.

The Muslim insurgents have severely disrupted road convoys even as Western diplomats report that the state-owned silo holding Kabul's flour reserve is down to less than a day's supply.

"Anything can happen, but I think that (a blockade) will remain really just a threat," declared Maj. Gen. Lev Serebrov, deputy head of the Soviet military command in Afghanistan.

This week's emergency airlift followed acute shortages in the city last week, with fights in long lines at bread stores, raising fears of food riots.

Many Afghans, hauled away 70-kilogramme sacks of oats and flour offloaded from trucks by Soviet soldiers at a state-owned factory near the airport.

Takeshita faces new pressure to resign

TOKYO, Jan 25, (Reuters): Japanese Premier Noboru Takeshita came under new pressure today to resign, or at least choose a new cabinet, following the resignation of a third minister for involvement in an embarrassing share scandal.

The affair, involving payments and contributions to senior political figures from the Recruit group of companies, is ballooning into one of Japan's biggest political scandals since World War Two.

Political analysts said Takeshita is having increasing trouble containing the damage.

Takeshita told reporters last night, after accepting the resignation of Economic Planning Agency Minister Ken Harada, that he accepted full responsibility for the affair.

But he said he had no intention of stepping down.

All the ministers in the Takeshita cabinet should resign if the cabinet wants to deal with issues on political ethics," said Tsuruo Yamaguchi, secretary-general of the main opposition Japan Socialist Party.

Reshuffle

An official of the smaller Democratic Socialist Party said he believed Takeshita would have to reshuffle his cabinet again very soon as a result of the Recruit scandal.

There was a major cabinet reshuffle on Dec 26 after Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was forced to resign due to his involvement with Recruit. Only four days later the new Justice Minister was also forced out of office.

"I am amazed by the unpreparedness and ineptness of Takeshita in this case," said Tokyo University political science associate professor Takashi Inoguchi.

A secretary for the new Economic Planning Minister, Koshiro Aino, told Reuters last night that Aino had never received any contributions from the Recruit group.

But local media reported today that he had received legal donations totalling one million yen (\$7,800) from Recruit last year.

Man gets AIDS virus by having oral sex

BOSTON, Jan 25, (AP): A man reportedly contracted the AIDS virus by having oral sex with a prostitute, the first report in medical literature of woman-to-man transmission of the virus that way, a doctor said.

The case of a 60-year-old New England man is being reported in this week's New England Journal of Medicine by two physicians from the Lahey Clinic Medical Centre.

"I hope the message gets through, especially to younger people in high school and college, who cling to the belief that they're all right if they don't have intercourse," said Dr Peter G. Spitzer.

The man who got the virus reportedly has been married for 30 years and has diabetes, which caused nerve damage that led to him reporting he told his doctors he had not had sex with his wife for years.

Contact

He said his only sexual contact in recent years was with a prostitute with whom he engaged only in fellatio and cunnilingus.

He said the woman used intravenous drugs in his presence. This suggested the possibility that she contracted the virus from sharing hypodermic needles.

The two doctors from the Lahey Clinic did not seek out the prostitute because of state laws on the confidentiality of AIDS patients, Spitzer said.

China, Vietnam agree on Kampuchean pullout

BEIJING, Jan 25, (Agencies): China and Vietnam have reached broad agreement on an internationally supervised withdrawal of all Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea by September this year, diplomats said today.

China has agreed to phase out military aid to the coalition of three guerrilla forces, including the Khmer Rouge, in parallel with a Vietnamese pullout.

Asian and Western diplomats told Reuters that deputy foreign ministers from both sides agreed in talks in Beijing last week that the end of Vietnam's 10-year-old occupation of Kampuchea would be monitored by an international supervisory body that had yet to be defined.

Vietnam invaded Kampuchea in 1978 to oust the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, blamed by Western governments for the deaths of more than one million

people during their four-year rule.

Last week's talks between China and Vietnam were the first since last 1979 after their brief border war earlier that year.

Supervision

The deputy ministers failed to agree on the form of an international supervisory mechanism or how general elections would be held after a Vietnamese withdrawal, diplomats said.

China is in favour of an international peacekeeping force to be sent to Kampuchea but Vietnam opposed this.

"A pullout by September looks increasingly likely but a solution to Kampuchea's internal conflict is far from settled," said one diplomat.

Exiled resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is backed by China and non-communist Southeast Asian nations

said yesterday that the Kampuchean problem was still deadlocked.

"There is still deadlock. We are far from a solution, far from a breakthrough to put an end to the present deadlock," he told reporters on arriving in China on his way to crucial talks on Kampuchea to be held in Indonesia next month.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnamese-installed Kampuchean government today began unprecedented talks with Thai leaders, calling for economic co-operation with Thailand but maintaining a tough stand against the Thai-backed Kampuchean resistance.

The 37-year-old Kampuchean leader and his 24-member delegation were the first officials of the Phnom Penh regime to visit Thailand since the regime was installed in power in 1979.

Drug smugglers executed

ATHENS, Jan 25, (UPI): The Iranian authorities executed drug traffickers in Tehran and two other cities early today, Tehran Radio said.

The executions brought to at least 122 the total number of drug traffickers executed in Iran since the beginning of the year.

Several others have been killed in clashes with Revolutionary Guards, since the government launched a tough new campaign against drug trafficking in December.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Athens, said 10 "members of a big international gang of drug smugglers were hanged in Tehran early this morning."

Another four were executed in the western city of Shiraz, and two in Verdeh, a central Iranian town.

They were charged with smuggling nearly 8 tons of opium and more than 200 kg of heroin into the country.

The hangings were the first since a top cleric warned last week that people charged with drug trafficking and other "serious crimes" would be executed within 10 days of their arrest.

Chief Justice Abdul Karim Ardebili said special courts have been set up in several parts of the country to hand down "swift justice" to criminals, as required under Islamic law.

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Waldegrave to visit Kuwait mid-February

By Hussain Salameh

BRITISH Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave will visit Kuwait in mid-February. During his two-day visit, the British official will hold talks with the country's senior officials.

Well informed sources said that the official will hold talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Saoud Al-Osaimi. The talks will concentrate on new developments of the Palestinian cause in the wake of the declaration of an independent Palestinian state. Additionally, the Palestinian National Uprising in the Israeli occupied territories will also be discussed.

Sources also said that discussions will be held on developments in the Gulf area following the ceasefire between Iraq-Iran and the necessity to mobilise international efforts to push forward the peace negotiations between the two countries to achieve a fair and comprehensive peace in the region.

New health system at Amiri Hospital

THE new health registration system has been enforced at the Amiri Hospital according to Dr Mohammed Sami Matar, director of the preliminary medical services department at the Ministry of Public Health.

The official said that the new system incorporates a special file record for each patient, which will, among other things, serve to keep track of the medications dispensed to the patient, throughout his medical history. Matar warned people against storing unused medicine over a long period of time as they may create serious health hazards.

Narcotics seized

CUSTOMS men at Abdalli seized a truck, arriving from Turkey, containing 250,000 narcotics pills.

The truck was carrying a shipment of empty bottles, and, according to sources, the driver seemed scared when the customs inspectors tried to inspect the truck. This aroused doubts resulting in a thorough inspection.

The driver and the drugs were referred to general prosecution.

Frost damages vegetable crop

KUWAIT, over the past few days, has been exposed to frost with a sharp drop in temperature, accompanied with swift chilly winds causing the temperature to drop below zero. This has caused serious damage to farms, almost totally destroying cucumber and tomato crops.

Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Sabah, Chairman of the Board and Director General of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs, announced that the authorities intend to reimburse farmers for their losses, based on the outcome of studies currently being conducted by specially formed committees.

Losses

Barrak Al Noun, chairman of the Agro-production Co-operative Societies Union, told a local daily that the losses in tomato yield this year were great, as the frost combined with tomato pest caused total destruction.

He said most of the greenhouses were torn open by the wind and crops sustained 100 per cent damage.

He said other crops such as pepper and egg-plant sustained a relative loss.

He appealed to the authorities to speed up the process of evaluating the damage to reimburse farmers for their losses.

Higher Planning Council debates proposal for drugs and alcohol authority

KUWAIT, Jan 25, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah this morning presided over the fourth meeting of the Higher Planning Council's second session.

Secretary-General of the Council Fuad Mula Hussein said that the members discussed items on the agenda and followed up implementation of previous decisions.

He told KUNA that the council debated a report tabled by the social services committee that included a proposal for the creation of a special authority to combat drugs and alcohol.

The council decided to return the proposal to the committee for further study and to exchange information and opinion with concerned ministers to achieve a comprehensive plan on the issue of fighting drugs and alcohol, he elaborated.

The Crown Prince affirmed the government's keenness to back all efforts aimed at terminating that negative phenomenon, Hussein went on.

The secretary-general noted that another report by the same committee on the role of the mosque in society was reviewed and endorsed. The report included a number of suggestions to boost the mosque's role in preparing a benevolent citizen.

A report by the Economic Committee on means of handling the state budget's deficit was tackled, Hussein said, adding that the council referred the report again to the committee for more studies in co-operation with ministers, members of the committee, and the Central Bank governor. Outcome of that study should be presented to the council's next meeting, he noted.

Hussein said that Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed had briefed the council members on outcome of the Arab Goodwill Committee's efforts to solve the Lebanese problems. Sheikh Sabah heads the six-member committee.

The council decided to convene its next meeting on March 22.

Amir to patronise 18th engineering conference

HH the Amir will patronise the 18th Arab Engineering Conference to be held here Feb 18 to 21, under the title of 'Development of Arab Engineering Potential to Achieve Self-Reliance'.

The conference will be organised by the Kuwait Engineers Society in co-operation with the Arab Engineers Federation, and will discuss subjects pertaining to ways of fostering inter-Arab engineering activities, with a view to enriching national engineering expertise preliminary to achieving self-reliance.

Sources close to conference organising authorities say that the conference will seek to establish existing Arab engineering possibilities, diagnose projected challenges to the development process whereby to determine the right development approach and priorities.

The sources added that the conference would discuss the recommendations adopted in this connection at the three preliminary symposia held during 1987, where a total of 28 research papers were discussed in nine sessions.

Kuwait envoy meets League secretary-general

TUNIS, Jan 25, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Tunisia Abdul Mohsen Al Je'aa met today with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibi on preparations for a meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Committee on Lebanon.

Je'aa, who is also Kuwait's permanent representative to the Arab League, paid a visit to Damascus and Beirut along with Kuwait's Ambassador to Syria, and handed messages to the Lebanese leaders inviting them to attend the committee meeting due to be held later this month.

The committee was formed by the Arab League earlier this

month to be headed by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed in a bid to find a solution to the constitutional problem in Lebanon, caused by the failure to elect a new president to replace former President Amin Gemayel.

The committee groups foreign ministers of Kuwait, Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Algeria in addition to Kibi.

The committee was assigned with contacting all Lebanese parties to reach an end to the constitutional crisis.

Bishara to discuss GCC-EEC co-operation in Spain

MADRID, Jan 25, (KUNA): GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara will hold talks here today with the Spanish monarch King Juan Carlos, and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, whose country currently chairs the European Economic Community.

Bishara is scheduled to confer with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez during his official visit to Spain that ends tomorrow.

The Gulf official's visit to Spain comes at the end of his European tour that included Austria, Holland, and Belgium.

MTSC unit rentals under consideration

SHEIKH Hamad Naser Al Sabah, the head of the Foreign Relations and Information Division at the Mobile Telephone Communication System Company said that the decision to rent the surplus of the company's telephone systems or those returned by subscribers is still under consideration.

The company planned to

provide subscribers with rental mobile systems. This decision stemmed from the company's belief that there were still many people who needed the service on an urgent, though temporary basis. This service will be available to persons visiting Kuwait temporarily, the official said.

Ahmadi's installations are protected round-the-clock, says governor

AHMADI Governorate contains vital oil, water and electricity installations, and is an important economic port a vital artery for the country and its citizens, said Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, the Governor of Ahmadi.

Obviously, the Ministry of Interior represented by the Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah and the ministry's senior officials are keen to preserve the security in this sensitive and vital part of Kuwait. The governorate has been provided with sufficient and efficient security men. The governorate's security men are always vigilant and work round-the-clock to protect the installations and the citizens of the governorate, the official said.

Criticism

On the population balance in the governorate, Ali said: "With regard to Ahmadi governorate, there is no specific criteria to justify such a question - taking into consideration the nature of activities of this governorate which is mainly concentrated in the oil industry."

He added: "Accordingly, the existence and participation of sincere and dedicated expatriates was essential towards promoting and protecting the interest of the country. Thus, the governorate always welcomes those experienced people to work - irrespective of the population balance."

With respect to the Ahmadi



Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem

Governorate Fund, he said that the capital of this fund consisted of the contribution of some companies at the governorate. The said fund had been designed to finance several activities such as sports, and camping and competitions in addition to projects which were not included in the state's plans.

Speaking on the establishment of Ahmadi Governorate Fund for Students Aid, the governor said this was a human project that had been designed to assist needy students to follow up on their studies and to surmount financial obstacles which may deprive them from getting ahead.

He added that the fund was organized and supervised by a joint committee from Zakat House and the Social Services

Department

On the possibility of establishing new touristic facilities at the governorate, Sheikh Ali said that the governorate, for the time being has a lot of recreational facilities, sporting clubs and public gardens in addition to the recreational projects and chalets at Ahmadi. For the present, it is not considered imperative to establish new touristic facilities, the official said.

Comparison

To compare Ahmadi Governorate with any of its counterparts in European countries, Ali said that this aspect should take into account several factors such as climate, environment, geography, population and social factors. In the light of these conditions it was not feasible to make a comparison between Ahmadi and those out of the Arab area. However, he said if the word comparison meant "twin", this would indicate fraternity - such as the fraternal relations held recently between Baghdad and Cairo. Ahmadi Governorate appreciated any fraternal relations with any Arab Governorate and will be pleased to be a pioneer in this respect.

He confirmed that the state represented by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister did not hesitate to inaugurate new projects in Ahmadi and all the country's governorates.

Light up all buildings, says Hawalli governor

The governor of Hawalli, Abdul Latif Al Birjes, has called on all citizens and expatriates in Hawalli Governorate to demonstrate their patriotic feelings towards Kuwait by taking part in celebrations to mark the National Day.

The official called on all buildings and company owners to

decorate their buildings. He also called on co-operative societies and companies to install triumphal arches and monuments that embody Kuwaiti heritage in co-operation with the Higher Committee for National Day celebrations. All people are urged to light the fronts of their buildings, shops and to hoist Kuwaiti flags the official added.

No damage to farms, says official

FARMS have not been damaged by a locust invasion which hit southern Wafra on Sunday, said Jassim Habib, the director of the plant protection department at the Public Authority for Agriculture.

Habib said measures to control the invasion were "fairly successful." Two aircrafts were sent to spray insecticides to protect farms in the area. An air patrol is circling around the area to prevent further invasions, he said.

A first swarm, part of the biggest locust wave to hit the Gulf in 20 years, invaded northern Kuwait in October.

Habib said the locust threat has not ended but the authorities are prepared to deal with them.

Civil card a must for health service

MEDICAL services will not be provided to any person who does not produce his Civil Identity card, according to Dr Naef Al Nagib, the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Public Health.

The decision is in keeping with the general policy of the various ministries and in accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers.

Meanwhile, in appreciation of services, the Ministry of Public Health has rewarded workers of the health, interior and finance ministries. The reward ranged between KD60 and KD450 and were given to those who participated in the organisation of the 26th Conference of the Council of Health Ministers of the Gulf states held in Kuwait last month.

Six months for lying under oath

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a maid to six months imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation.

The court was told that the maid filed a complaint at a police station stating that she was sexually assaulted by her employer. She repeated the charge in the presence of the general prosecution and under legal oath.

According to medical reports, the maid was deflowered but was unmarried.

Under investigations, the maid confessed that she had filed the complaint as she was under tremendous work pressure and desired to leave her employer to take up service in another household.

Training conference

THE first Training Conference will be held in Kuwait on April 3 and 4, organised by a voluntary co-ordinating committee for training and administrative development.

Waheeb Qaladeh, head of the committee, told a local daily that the conference is sponsored by several government agencies. He added that the subjects to be discussed, include the suitability of available training possibilities for future needs in Kuwait, ways to eliminate training problems and optimise quality, financial and moral motivation for both trainees and instructors.

A review of main training experience and use of academic expertise in conducting successful training courses will also be held.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Omanis constitute nearly 77 per cent in telecommunications, says official

OMAN has taken significant strides in increasing the number of its nationals working in the telecommunications industry in the country, as part of the government's policy of 'Omanisation' in the overall economic structure and to help reduce dependence on expatriate manpower in general.

The telecommunications industry in the sultanate employs the highest number of nationals among both government and private sectors. Omanis constitute nearly 77 per cent in the telecommunications industry with 1432 personnel out of a total of 1883. The country is also the first in the Gulf to have a national organisation for telecommunications.

On the second and final day of Mecom '89 conference in Bahrain Wednesday, Noor Bin Mohammed Bin Abdul Rahman, President, General Telecommunications Organisation of Oman, spoke about managing human resources in Oman's telecommunication industry.

The Omani official said that the Arab world has enjoyed unprecedented development in telecommunication over the last decade. He cited management and development of human resources as key factor to the progress achieved in this field so far.

He said that in spite of shortage of skilled personnel and the limited size of the market, Oman has done considerably better than its fellow Arab neighbours in implementing manpower development in telecommunications with great success.

He said Oman has successfully implemented centralisation of all aspects related to the telecommunications industry, thereby allowing the country's top engineers and managers to concentrate in their related jobs without concern for other areas of the network.

One of the highlights of Oman's human resource development in telecommunications has been the introduction of medium range training management programmes.

According to Rahman the programme has led to development of overall training of skilled personnel in the country, leading to about one per cent of staff turnover annually.

Indians celebrate Republic Day

A NUMBER of events have been organised to celebrate the 39th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India and to commemorate Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's birth centenary celebrations on Thursday.

The celebrations will start with the flag hoisting ceremony at the Indian embassy premises of 7 am, followed by patriotic songs by Indian school children.

A National Day reception will be held at the embassy residence between 6-9 pm. All ministers, heads of diplomatic missions, dignitaries and prominent Indian nationals have been invited to attend the reception.

On Friday a blood donation programme, drawing a large number of Indian nationals, will take place at the embassy premises.

On January 31, an Indian Cultural Evening is being organised at the Indian School by the co-ordination committee of all Indian associations and clubs with the help of the Indian embassy.

Sabah welcomes new round of UN diplomacy

KUWAIT, Jan. 25, (KUNA): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Al Jaber today welcomed the new round of UN diplomacy started by the United Nations envoy Jan Eliasson, during which he will visit Tehran and Baghdad, seeking to break the deadlock in peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

Answering a question by KUNA in this connection, Sheikh Sabah expressed optimism that Eliasson's new efforts would yield positive results for the interest of the two

Muslim states and for the benefit of the entire region and its peoples.

He hoped that speeding up the Iraqi-Iranian talks and achieving substantive and objective outcome would succeed in realising a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

The UN envoy who arrived in Tehran two days ago, is due to visit Baghdad next Friday within the framework of a new effort aimed at getting the consent of the Iranian and Iraqi leaders to resume their peace talks in Geneva early next month.

Job opportunities still available in construction

THE Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states still provide considerable job opportunities in the construction sector, according to a study.

The study prepared by the Co-ordination Bureau of Contractors in the GCC states indicates that the decline in business has been reversed in the construction sector as is evidenced by the rise in labour manpower in the GCC states.

The GCC states shifted from the stage of basic projects to the stage of specialised technical execution of projects. The GCC states have allocated big budgets for new construction projects for the fiscal year 1988/89.

The study indicated that Bahrain allocated BD125 million, Oman about QR352 million, and Saudi Arabia SR51,132 million. Over and above these amounts, additional budgets have been allocated for maintenance and operation of construction projects.

National contracting companies successfully competed with foreign firms which so far have benefited from the free economy policy of the GCC states. Local companies during the years have gained considerable experience from foreign firms, the study

added. The GCC states enacted new policies to assist national companies to execute at least 300 per cent of government construction.

Reduction

National companies succeeded in reducing activities of foreign firms in the local market. For instance construction work of Korean companies in the Gulf area have been reduced from 17.4 per cent out of total projects in 1982 to 7.4 per cent in 1985. French undertakings decreased from 13.7 per cent in 1983 to 4.9 per cent in 1985. German firms from 7.6 per cent in 1983 to 2.3 per cent in 1985. Italian from 5.8 per cent to 2.1 per cent in 1982 and Japanese from 30.9 per cent to 16.9 per cent during the same period.

The study showed that national contracting firms of the GCC states are quite capable of executing construction projects and to rebuild the destroyed cities in Iraq and Iran. Several national companies extended their activities to many Arab states. They have also carried out dam projects in Algeria, touristic and housing projects in Tunis and commercial and housing complexes in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Yemen, the study added.

1988 Graduation Ceremony of Pitman Secretarial and Business Studies Centre



THE 1988 Graduation Ceremony of the Pitman Secretarial and Business Studies Centre was held by the Institute for Private Education at the Regency Palace Hotel under the patronage of Dr Yacoub Al Shammah, Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education Affairs at the Ministry of Education.

The graduates of the Academic Year 1987-88 obtained their internationally recognised Pitman Diplomas in Secretarial and Business Studies in the presence of Mr Abdullah Al Muhanna, Director of Private Education Department, Mrs Sawan Dajani, Director of Academic Affairs and Mrs Rosemary Lloyd, Director of Pitman Colleges, UK, and a host of guests and parents.

Also present were representatives of the Getty Oil Company and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. A group of their female employees who have completed a special Pitman course in Secretarial Studies, were amongst this year's graduates.



A variety show was presented by the students of the Indian School, Mengat, (morning shift) on the occasion of the Annual Parents Day. A two-and-a-half hour programme of dances and music was presented by the students. Seen here are tiny tots presenting an item.

AL NOURI ENGLISH SCHOOL
FAHAHEEL
Applications are invited from
U.K. qualified teachers
for the Infant and Junior departments commencing
September 1989.
In addition to excellent salaries, generous allowances are
provided for all U.K.-qualified teachers, regardless of status.
Please contact the Headmaster, Tel: 3911039

AL NOURI ENGLISH SCHOOL
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wishing to register their children for our
KINDERGARTEN, INFANT and JUNIOR
DEPARTMENTS to start SEPTEMBER 1989.
Application forms and further details
available from school office Tel: 3911039

Rockabilly pioneers got spirits soaring



The Sun Rhythm Section: rockin' and rollin' on Tuesday night.

A SELECTED audience at the Meridian Hotel last Tuesday may have forgotten or never heard of rockabilly but the Sun Rhythm Section, a band which along with others pioneered rock'n'roll some 30 years ago, belted out numbers that got the feet tapping, hands clapping and spirits soaring. All that was missing was a dancing floor.

The six veterans who are part of a larger family of musicians called the fathers of the Memphis Sound, combined the blues with country and added a rocking beat in a performance which throbbed with rhythm.

humour and ease.

Members of the Sun Rhythm Section are from Tennessee where blues, country and gospel music were combined in the 1950s to create a new sound that came to be known as rockabilly.

They were in Kuwait between two concert tours, one in Sudan which they have just completed and the coming one in Bangladesh. The group is sponsored by the United States Information Agency. It includes Sonny Burgess lead guitarist and vocalist, D.J. Fontana who was Elvis

Presley's drummer and Marcus van Story a vocalist who also plays rhythm guitar, bass and harmonica. Smokey Smith, a singer and piano player amused the audience when he pounded the electric organ while lying on the floor. Songwriter Stan Kesler played the bass guitar while lead guitar was played by Paul Burlison.

The musicians once worked with famous artists such as Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, Warren Smith and Elvis Presley.

(JP)

Arab-European musical dialogue

PARIS, Jan 25, (KUNA): The Arab Music Academy will hold a meeting in Paris, the first time they are holding such an event outside the Arab world.

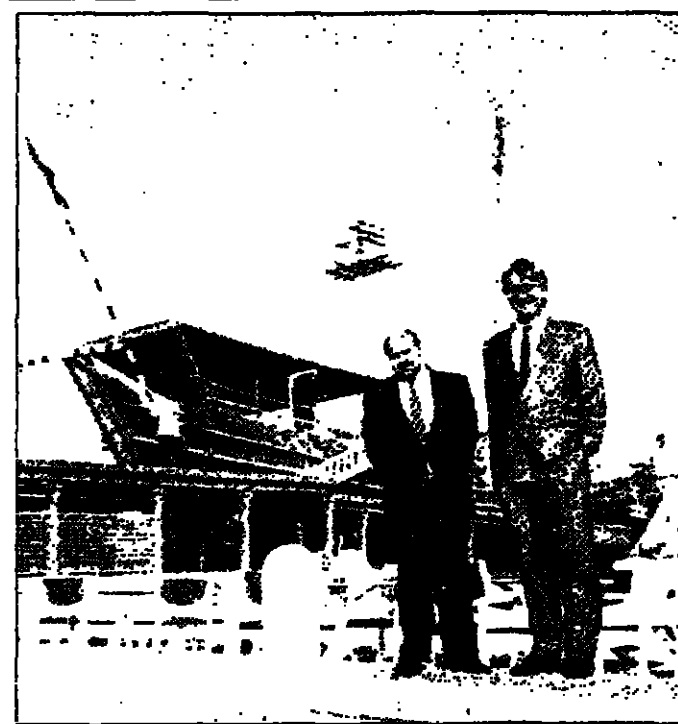
The Academy's 11th convention will be held from Feb 3 to 5 on the theme of the "musical dialogue" between the Arab world and Europe.

Speakers from Kuwait and the Arab world will take part in a seminar on the theme. They include Saqr Al Boeyjan (Kuwait), Rafida Al Hifni (Egypt) and Tareq Abdel

Hakim (Saudi Arabia). The Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting also includes Professors Yousef Al Rashed and Ramadan Seyf of the Kuwait Higher Institute for Music.

Music experts from Spain, France and Switzerland will speak on the "realities and perspectives" of the Arab-European musical dialogue.

Classical Arab music will be presented by the Franco-Arab Orchestra and the Iraqi Al Bayraq Orchestra.



The president of SAS International Hotels Terje Myklebust recently visited Kuwait with his family. Above: Myklebust (right) seen with the Kuwait SAS Hotel general manager Werner Kuendli.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; FRIDAYS: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Iwan Gallery
Exhibition of lithographs by three 19th century Orientalists. Open from 9 am to 1 pm, 5 to 9 pm, at the gallery located in Zahra Complex, Salmiya.

Kuwait Society for Formative Arts
JAN. 27 to FEB. 9: The Kuwait Society for Formative Arts will hold the annual general exhibition, displaying art works by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti plastic artists.

THEATRE

Kuwait Players
Kuwait Players present Alice in Wonderland, a musical fantasy directed by Carol Jelley, at the Universal American School, Salwa. Performances are as follows:

Jan. 26: matinee (3 pm) and evening (6.30 pm).
Jan. 27: last performance, 4 pm.

Tickets - KD3 (adults) and KD2.500 (children). For reservations call: 5726048; 5657749. Please collect tickets the day before the performance.

Funkar Arts Group
JAN. 27, 5 pm: The Indian theatre group, Funkar Arts will present two one-act plays. Bus Stop, a comedy, and Second

Trap, a suspense drama will be performed at the IAC. A dance show will also be held.

LECTURE

Symposia on Heart Disease
JAN 28/29: 4.30 pm: Senior specialists, Doctors Edwin Bevin, Delos Cosgrove and Mehdi Razavi from the Cleveland Clinic will participate in symposia on Coronary Heart Disease, Carotid Artery Stenosis and Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine, Room 144, Jabriya.

EXHIBITION

Children's Books of the Year '88
FEB 4-16: An exhibition of British books for children, written by award winning writers and illustrators, will be held at the British Council, Mansouriya.

FEB 4: Opening by Dr Rasha Al Sabah, Vice Rector for community Affairs, Kuwait University; Dr Elizabeth Al Kaoud will give a lecture on "From Tots to Teens: A survey of British Literature for Children".

FILMS: Feb 8 (6 pm): Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day (cartoon); Feb 14 (6 pm): The Amazing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (cartoons).

STORYTELLING SESSION: A professional storyteller Ms Merry Ewing will conduct the sessions. Feb 9/15 (9.40 - 10.30 am) a session for children - aged seven to 10; (11-12 noon) stories for children aged three to six.

All are welcome. Free admission. But it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 251-5512; 253-3204; 253-3227.

CINEMA

British Council
JAN 26: Robin Hood is the title of a children's film which will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriya. The animals tell their version of what really happened in Sherwood Forest as the tale of the legendary English hero and his followers unfolds in this Walt Disney Film. Duration: 80 minutes. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

Planeta Recital
JAN 26, 8 pm: A piano recital will be given by a top Yugoslav pianist, Kamel Gekic, at the Ballroom, Holiday Inn Hotel. For details contact the hotel.

Edinburgh Philharmonic
JAN 28: The Edinburgh Philharmonic Orchestra will give a recital of contemporary and classical music at the Kuwait International Hotel. Excerpts from the music of Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven and others will be presented.

Dhanak
FEB 3: The music groups Funkada and Saaz aur Awaz will present a musical evening entitled "Dhanak" at the SAS Tent, featuring a number of local singers and musicians. For details contact Anwar -

Tel: 398-5456; Zulfikar - Tel: 4814733.

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Daniella
FEB 3: Daniella celebrates "Fastelavn" at Gazelle Club from 1 pm. For reservations call Karen-Marie - 3715146; Ingilise - 3713670.

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NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait

Al Omar Pharmacy
Awkaf Bldg., Mubarak Al Kabir St.

Al Ghazwa Pharmacy
Kazemi Bldg., Khalid Bin Al Walid St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Saadah Pharmacy
Othman St.

Salmiya and Rumaihiya
Al Markaziya Pharmacy
Asfoor Bldg., Omar Bin Al Aas St.

Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Wafa Pharmacy
Dabbous St., F'heel

Jleeb-Al Shiyokh
Al Failaka Pharmacy
Main St., Opp. Police Station

Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Commercial Market

FRIDAY
Kuwait

Al Shaab Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.

Baghdad Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Salem St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Ikhlis Pharmacy
Opp. Police Stn., Beirut St.

Salmiya and Rumaihiya
Phoenicia Pharmacy
Khalid Essa Bldg., No. 1, Salem Al Mubarak St.

Sadaf Pharmacy
Makkah St.

Farwaniya
Yasmin Pharmacy
Jara Commercial Centre, No. 1, Main St.

Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
New Commercial Market

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.18 am
Zuhr 12.01
Asr 3.01 pm
Maghreb 5.21
Isha 6.41

FRIDAY
Fajr 5.18 am
Friday Prayer 12.01
Asr 3.02 pm
Maghreb 5.22
Isha 6.42

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Dabdoob Al Musiqar: cartoon serial
9.45 Tum Tek and Children
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
10.30 Variety Show
11.00 Heaven on Earth: English film
1.00 News
1.05 World Today via Satellite
1.40 Festival of Music: directed by Hassan Sarab
2.30 Sports in a Week: a weekly programme focussing on local and world sports.
4.45 Cartoons
5.15 Liqa' Al Khamis: variety show
7.00 News Summary
7.05 From People's Art
7.30 Show Jumping: local equestrian events
8.30 Ma'a Al Islam: prepared and presented by Dr Khalid Al Madhkour
9.00 News
10.00 TV Windows: prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Rahman Najjar
11.00 Hikayat Nus Million Dollar: Arabic film, starring Yahya Fakhrani, Iham Shahin, Ahmad Abdul Aziz Akhtarani Lakum: "We Present ..."
12.15 News Summary
1.15 News Summary
1.20 World Today via Satellite/ Holy Quran/Closedown

11.00 Ahadith Mauduwa: religious programme
11.15 Friday prayer
12.30 Alwan: prepared by Mohammad Saeed
1.00 News
1.05 World Today via Satellite
1.35 Istara:ha:
2.00 We and Our Friends
2.15 Hadith Deeni: religious talk
2.45 Cartoons
3.15 Hareb Min Al Ayyam: Arabic feature film, starring Farid Shawki, Samira Ahmed, Mahmoud Al Mlaiji, Salah Mansour.
5.00 Kaifa Wa Akhwatuh: prepared and presented by Shareef Al Ilmi.
6.00 Kuwait in a Week
7.00 News Summary
7.15 KTV 1 Programmes Preview
7.45 Al Usrah: "The Family". Fatima Rashid and Futuoh Al Dalal discuss the role of the family in Arab society.
8.45 Hadith Al Usbooh: weekly religious talk
9.00 News
10.00 Wrestling
10.45 Amsiya Al Jumaa: weekly local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammad Al Barges.
11.45 News Summary
11.50 World Today Via Satellite

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Real Ghost Busters: cartoon serial.
6.30 Fairy Tale Theatre: "The Little Mermaid". The tale of a mermaid who wants to see the world.
7.30 T and T: Mr T plays a

private eye who solves difficult cases.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Oldest Rookie: Paul Sorvino is Detective Porter. In an episode entitled "Heartbreak", he tries to unravel the mystery of the missing bracelet.
9.40 Incredible Sunday: a programme on the lines of That's Incredible.
10.30 Late Night Movie: "Trapped in Silence". Starring: Marsha Mason, Ron Silver.
12.00 News Summary: Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/Closedown
FRIDAY
3.30 Holy Quran
3.40 The Sylvanian Family: new cartoon feature for children.
4.00 Italian Football
5.30 American Basketball
6.30 Star Trek: there is an emergency onboard the spaceship Enterprise.
7.30 Face to Face
8.00 News in English
8.40 Breaking Away
8.55 Big League Soccer: Brian Moore introduces this sports show on English League games.
9.40 Weekend: local programme on news and views about Kuwait.
10.00 The Charmings: "Buy a Car".
10.30 Desperado
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/Closedown
Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 Newsday
30 King Street Junior (ex 5th Two Cheers for 1988)
0100 News Summary, followed by:
0100 Outlook
0200 World News
0300 World News
0400 World News
0500 World News
0600 World News
0700 World News
0800 World News
0900 World News
1000 World News
1100 World News
1200 World News
1300 World News
1400 World News
1500 World News
1600 World News
1700 World News
1800 World News
1900 World News
2000 World News
2100 World News
2200 World News
2300 World News
2400 World News

Sports Roundup
45 Society Today
1000 News Summary followed by Assignment
30 King Street Junior (ex 5th Two Cheers for 1988)
1100 World News
09: News about Britain
15 New Ideas
25 Book Choice
30 Citizens
1200 Newsday
15 Multitrack 2
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09: Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Network UK
45 5th and 19th Folk in Britain: 12th and 26th Jazz Scene UK
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 Mediawatch
1500 Newsday
15 The Pleasure of Your
1600 World News
09: News about Britain
15 Assignment
45 The World Today
FRIDAY
0000 Newsday
30 The Great Ballets
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
25 Financial News
30 6th and 26th Folk in Britain: 12th and 26th Jazz Scene UK
0200 World News
09: British Press Review
15 Seven Seas
30 Citizens
0300 World News
09: News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 Focus on Faith
0400 Newsday
30 Poems by Post
45 6th and 26th Folk in Britain: 12th and 26th Jazz Scene UK

50 Financial News
0500 World News
09: Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Financial News
40 Words of Faith
45 The World Today
0600 Newsday
0700 World News
09: Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Market Leaders
0800 World News
09: Words of Faith
15 Music Now
45 Images of Britain (ex 6th Ghost Story)
0900 World News
09: British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Seven Seas
1000 News Summary followed by Focus on Faith
30 The Great Ballets
1100 World News
09: News about Britain
15 Profile
30 Meridian
1200 Newsday
15 Market Leaders
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09: Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 John Peel
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 Nature Now
1500 Newsday
15 Music Now
45 Images of Britain (ex 6th Ghost Story)
1600 World News
09: News about Britain
15 Science in Action
45 The World Today

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Twinkle Twinkle Lucky Stars
S'tarring: Jackie Chan
Al Salmiya
Arabic play
Al Hamra
Shaqiqah wa Murwali (Arabic)
S'tarring: Suad Husni, Ahmad Zaki
Drive-In
Yom Mar Yom Helu (Arabic)
S'tarring: Faten Hamama, Mohammad Muneer
Al Firdos
Pyar Mohabbat (Hindi)
S'tarring: Govinda, Mandakini
Fahadhel Opea-Air
Pyar Kiye Jaa (Hindi)
Al Fahadhel

Jogajoc (Bengali)
Al Jahra
Ayyam fi London (Arabic)
Granada
Night of the Creeps
Salaibikhat
Ninja Force
Al Jleeb
Aashiq (Hindi)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Al Shareedah (Arabic)
FRIDAY
Al Jahra
Security Unlimited
Granada
Gunga Jumuna Saraswati (Hindi)
S'tarring: Amitabh Bachchan, Meenakshi Sulaibikhat
Project A
Al Jleeb
Aashiq Hoon Baharoon Ka



مدرسة الكويت الانجليزية KUWAIT ENGLISH SCHOOL

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. APPLICATIONS for Pupil Places, September 1989

These are now being received by our KG, Infant, Junior and Senior departments. Please enquire at the school in Salwa.

2. VACANCIES for Teaching Staff (September)

Applications are now being considered for a limited number of vacancies in each department. British qualified staff are invited to apply in writing/person at the School.

Administrative Vacancy: Receptionist/Secretary

Application forms available from the School for this position.

The school administration is open daily from 7.30 am - 2.30 pm Saturday - Wednesday and Thursday, 8.00 am - 12.00 noon. Also between Saturday 28th Jan and Sunday 5th Feb between 5.00 - 7.00 pm.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A SOUND mind in a sound body is something to be prayed for — Juvenal, Roman lawyer-satirist (about 60-140 A.D.)

Focus on uprising

Israelis find comic relief in satire

By Gail Fitzer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): In a popular Israeli satire, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir resorts to dark glasses to shield himself from new Palestinian moderation while Arabs warn Israel they are preparing a demographic bomb in their beds.

Israelis face a mountain of problems, from an economic slump to a 13-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but they have not lost their sense of humour.

In the last five months, tens of thousands have found comic relief in the hugely successful satire starring the country's top impersonator, Tuvia Tsafir.

Impersonating Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud Party, Tsafir tells an optometrist that his eyes are too good — he can even read the bottom of an eye-chart that says "peace talks, PLO proposals, there are Palestinians, there is a chance."

"I see too well. Maybe you can do something so I won't be able to tell what's going on around me," the prime minister says.

Sunglasses
When the optometrist, played by entertainer Menny Pe'er, gives Shamir a pair of black sunglasses, he replies: "This is exactly what I was looking for ... I don't see anything."

Asked if covering his eyes was the right solution, he says: "No, not quite, do you have ear plugs as well?"

An audience of about 1,000 Israelis packed into an occupied Jerusalem theatre applauded the satire of their leader, who has refused to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation despite its recognition of Israel and renunciation of terrorism last month.

"It's all true. They're not lying about anything," Yossi Shrim, an engineer at Israel Radio, said after the show.

Toren Dov, another audience member, said: "This is Jewish humour. We're always laughing at our problems. It lets us forget about them for a while."

Organisers said the satire, touring the country since September, was a box-office

triumph. "Even Knesset (parliament) members have seen it. It answers everyone's needs. It's a satire but it gives expression to both the left and right," said a production assistant.

In a scene poking fun at Israel's demographic problem — an Arab population of 1.7 million in the occupied territories which, along with Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens, is growing faster than Israel's 3.5 million Jews — Tsafir and singer Osmat Vishinsky play an Arab couple from a Gaza refugee camp.

Population
"We are preparing a bomb in our bed for you, a demographic bomb, a time bomb ... with us, women are also ammunition. In another 20 years, you will be in the mud, we will be many and we will spread out," they warn the audience in song.

Vishinsky, made to look pregnant in traditional Arab dress, reels off the names of her many children and warns the audience: "This is just a start."

In another scene, Pe'er and Vishinsky play two American television reporters who hire an Arab taxi driver to find them "infada" in the territories.

"I'll show you stones, tear gas, whatever you want," the driver says.

Sure enough, the reporters are attacked — but not by Palestinians. They are stoned by disgruntled Israeli factory workers and ultra-orthodox Jews protesting against desecration of the Sabbath, a reminder of Israel's domestic problems.

Right-wing Israeli leaders have accused the media of provoking anti-Israeli protests during the uprising in which 370 Arabs and 14 Jews have died.

"It's true that journalists go starting demonstrations," said engineer Dani Hauslich, another member of the audience.

The uprising is not the only butt of Tsafir's humour.

One scene depicts the Knesset as a nursery school with hawkish Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon as a young boy who cries on hearing the word "peace" and fights with a leftist legislator who campaigns for Palestinian rights.

Belfast grave-diggers never short of work

By Paul Majendie

BELFAST, (Reuters): The gravedigger at Belfast's Milltown cemetery has done the job for 18 years. He has never been short of work.

"You get used to it but you never get immune to it," he said as he gazed across the rapidly filling Republican plot where the Irish Republican Army buries guerrillas killed in their fight against the British.

Sixty-eight IRA "volunteers" are buried there, from hunger strike victim Bobby Sands, whose 1981 funeral attracted 100,000 mourners, to three IRA guerrillas shot dead last March on an abortive bombing mission in Gibraltar.

Their burial turned into a nightmare when a lone gunman, attacked the funeral, killing three mourners and injuring more than 50.

Two days later, two British soldiers who strayed into a funeral cortege on its way to Milltown cemetery were pulled from their car, beaten, stripped, taken away and shot dead.

Landmarks
Milltown must have the most chequered history of any graveyard on this divided and tragic island and the gravedigger never tires of showing visitors its grim landmarks. "It's a piece of history so you just tell it as it is," he said.

The gravedigger, happy to be interviewed but loth to give his name for publication, said: "There are only about seven or eight graves left in the Republican plot. That could easily fill up in a couple of months. It is hard to say."

Almost 3,000 people have died in the 20-year battle by the IRA to oust Britain from Northern Ireland. Burying the young gunmen always hits home with the Milltown gravedigger.

"The only thing that gets to me is burying the kids. It is such an awful waste. That really is different."

Benazir should not overlook history

SIR: I totally agree with the letter "Bhutto is not a martyr" (AT, Jan 12-13).

The murder case in which Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was sentenced to death was not the only murder committed during his reign. There are several other examples of brutality and murders of political opponents.

Here are some examples:
1. June 8, 1972: Dr. Nazir Ahmed, a strong opponent to Bhutto's recognition of Bangladesh was murdered.
2. Dec 20, 1972: Khawaja Rafiq, a critic of Bhutto's policies was murdered in Lahore.

3. March 23, 1973: During Pakistan Day rally in Livaqat Bagh, Rawalpindi, 11 workers of Pakistani National Alliance were killed.

4. Maulvi Shamsudin, a leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and Speaker of Baluchistan assembly was murdered.

Bhutto destroyed the roots of democracy by refusing to attend the National Assembly session in the then East Pakistan as leader of PPP who won less than 30 per cent of the seats. He threatened in a press statement to break the legs of those elected National Assembly members who would attend the constitutional session of the National Assembly in Dhaka.

After the Supreme Court of Pakistan upheld his death sen-

tence, Bhutto never appealed for clemency to General Zia-ul-Haq, who toppled Bhutto in a bloodless coup.

A murderer cannot be called a martyr. Benazir Bhutto should not overlook history and facts. Rather she should learn a lesson and follow the right path quietly.

Z.B. Malik, Safat.

Clean chit for Indian schools

SIR: I refer to the letter "Nationalist schools" (AT, Dec 22-23). Indian schools are reputed educational institutions serving the needs of all Indian expatriates.

Genuine criticism of these schools is welcome. Allegations based on personal grudges will harm the Indian community.

It is the duty of the person criticising anything to prove his charges. Functions of all private schools are strictly controlled and supervised by the Ministry of Education. Indian schools have shown remarkable achievement in the field of education.

As a responsible Indian, I met the school authorities to verify the contents of the above letter. It was proved beyond doubt that there are no such "loans" given to any individual

or members of the school board. Last year a local newspaper gave the Indian schools a clean chit after verifying their audit reports.

Ajit Singh, Safat.

Indian School, Abbasiya

SIR: Parents are happy to know that the Indian School, Abbasiya, is expanding its facilities and will hold classes only in the morning. At present we are sending our children to another school in Abbasiya where education standard is poor and discipline lacking. We are now anxiously waiting to enrol our children in the Indian School.

An Indian parent, (Name and address supplied)

Keralites preferred

SIR: I refer to the letters "Nationalist schools" and "Irregularities in Indian schools" in the Arab Times. Both these letters have widely opened the eyes of the people in Kuwait. Such letters should be sent to Arabic newspapers and Kuwait government authorities too.

In Kuwait, expatriates of all religions get equal opportunities to earn their bread. But in some institutions only

Keralites are given preference. When there are vacancies, thousands of application forms are issued for a fee. After the interview non-Keralites are kept on the waiting list even if they do well. Muslim students get the same treatment. But in sports such students cannot be deprived because the contest is held openly.

Rukshana Dadarker, Kuwait.

Reconsider new labour law

SIR: I refer to the decision by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to amend the labour laws for the private sector.

The new labour law which prevents expatriates from changing their residence before three years and doing part-time jobs will have an adverse effect on them. A Kuwaiti or an expatriate who works hard, doing two or more jobs, is an asset to a nation.

Kuwait has the right to change rules as it likes but placing restrictions on expatriates will only prevent the development of the nation.

Let us not forget that it would have been impossible for GCC states to develop without the help of expatriates.

Hence I request the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to reconsider the new law.

Abdul Salam and others, Safat.

An appeal to save a baby

SIR: My 21-month-old baby has a premature connection of skull bones. The baby, who was born prematurely, cannot raise her head. She may not even be able to see.

Facilities to save the baby are not available in Pakistani hospitals. Doctors advise the baby should be taken abroad for medical treatment.

I appeal to HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait to grant permission for my baby's treatment in Kuwait or any other hospital abroad. I shall be thankful to him forever for this kindness.

Tariq Javald, Pakistan.

NGOA in the doldrums

SIR: We are no longer members of the New Goans Overseas Association, having resigned from our post recently.

We are not associated with any activity or more correctly the inactivity of this association. We feel that the NGOA has completely lost its original impetus and that the association's management is in the doldrums.

Frank Fernandes (former vice-president), Carmo Barreto (former secretary), Tony D'Souza (former treasurer), Eustace Alcasos (former assistant treasurer). Safat.



Excellent Tamil play

SIR: The Tamil play staged at the Indian Arts Circle on Jan 6 is a memorable one. It was an excellent play with fine performance by the actors. The scene settings were very good and changes incredibly fast. The hall was nearly full and no one left their seat till the end. Father Arumaiyagam's acting was excellent. Others who acted well were Satyanarayana, Pan-kajam, Kupuswamy and Arayasami.

Hearty congratulations to C.K.V. Raman and his team. I hope they will stage more of such plays in future.

Arulanandam Emanuel, Fahaheel.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.



By Buchizya Meeteke

ZANZIBAR, (Reuters): Political tension is high in the spice islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, where growing dissatisfaction with 25 years of union with Tanzania has been exacerbated by an economic slump.

Zanzibari President Idris Abdul Wakil recently warned of the existence of plots to paralyse the islands' clove-based economy and overthrow his government.

A few weeks ago, troop reinforcements came over from the mainland to beef up security.

Mature
"What we are facing today is not a political crisis, but rather an attempt by a few individuals to organise a coup d'etat within the Zanzibar and union governments," Jamal Nassib, a Zanzibari member of the Central Committee of Tanzania's ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party told Reuters.

But many political analysts believe the malaise in this former British colony and Arab slave trading post runs deeper.

"Until the government in Dar-es-Salaam accepts that the islands are mature enough to run their own affairs and that they are autonomous enough to maintain their own rules and laws and political establishment.

Sweet scent of spice turns sour in Zanzibar

Zanzibar will remain explosive," one Western diplomat said.

Many Zanzibaris resent what they see as mainland interference in local affairs aimed at eroding the islands' autonomy and limiting their potential for independent economic development.

"The whole thing is unfair and inequitable," complained Mohamed Dedes, the head of Zanzibar's Economic Planning Commission.

The present political crisis began in January 1987, when Wakil sacked his popular Chief Minister, Seif Sharif Hamad, his main rival for power.

Hamad, who was subsequently expelled from the ruling party, along with several of his associates, enjoys strong support on his home island of Pemba.

Backing
Wakil has the backing of the union government in Dar-es-Salaam and some of the old-guard of the Zanzibari revolution, who resent what they see as Arab attempts to regain influence in the islands.

In particular, Wakil is supported by Tanzania's still powerful former President Julius Nyerere, who engineered the union of

Zanzibar and mainland Tanganyika.

"The union is alive so long as Nyerere lives. Its survival after that is a big question mark," one African diplomat told Reuters.

Political tension following Hamad's sacking boiled over in May last year when two people were killed in a violent anti-government demonstration led by Islamic fundamentalists.

For fear of provoking further unrest, the government subsequently shelved its commitment to shed 5,000 civil service jobs as part of an austerity programme.

Official celebrations on January 12 to mark the 25th anniversary of Zanzibar's revolution were surrounded by tight security and were greeted with public apathy.

Revolution
The revolution, in which Zanzibar's black majority overthrew the islands' traditional Arab rulers a month after independence from Britain, led directly to the union with Tanganyika in April 1964.

Zanzibar and Pemba, which have a combined population of 600,000, retained a good deal of autonomy under the new constitutional arrangement.

The islands have their own president, council of ministers and elected assembly to run local affairs and they keep their own foreign exchange earnings from clove and copra exports.

But a slump in the world market prices for cloves during the 1980s has led to a crisis in Zanzibar's fragile economy and a greater dependence on the mainland and foreign donors.

Earnings from clove exports, which account for about 90 per cent of the islands' exports, slumped to \$16 million in 1987 from \$62 million in 1980.

Crumbling
The picturesque old Arab quarter of Zanzibar town is crumbling, and so too are the blocks of workers' flats on the outskirts of the town, built by East Germany after the revolution.

The revolution turned Zanzibar into a rigidly controlled society run on a mixture of Marxist-Leninist and Islamic principles.

Colourful Peronist governor front runner in Argentina

By Ed McCullough

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, (AP): Carlos Saul Menem, the leading candidate for president, drives racing cars, flies planes, has shoulder-length hair and likes to be photographed with showgirls.

The 53-year-old provincial governor is colourful in a way that intrigues an electorate weary of Argentina's foreign debt burden, energy crisis, triple-digit inflation, rising unemployment and political and social tensions.

Union members and the poor are the core of Menem's Peronist Party constituency. They ignore his gaffes and policy gaps, and remember his promises of a brighter tomorrow, his visits to their factory or village years before, and the natural way he slips a poncho over his head and sips mate, a harsh herbal tea.

"It's easy for me to communicate with people," the slightly built Menem said in an interview at this campaign office. "I talk with everyone. I feel at home in the most humble places."

Menem's lead for the May 14 election has narrowed since his upset primary victory last July. A nationwide survey published this month by the respected agency Mora y Araujo, Noguero and Associates showed him favoured by 37 per cent of the voters to 30 per cent for his main rival, Eduardo Angeloz of the ruling Radical Civic Union.

Two other candidates trail by wide margins, although 19 per cent of those surveyed remain undecided.

Differing
Menem and Angeloz, onetime classmates at the National University of Cordoba Law School in the 1950s, are as different as the side-by-side provinces they govern.

Angeloz' Cordoba is a rich, populous, industrial hub of 2.5 million people that is traversed

by rivers harnessed to dams, hydroelectric stations and irrigation channels.

Big and beefy in his dark, two-piece suits, Angeloz, 58, looks uncomfortable at assembly lines and factory gates, and admits he is "timid" about such encounters.

He prides himself on being a good administrator. He supports the policies of President Raul Alfonsín — who by law cannot seek a second term — including privatizing Argentina's inefficient and costly public services, paying off the foreign debt, and basing economic growth on increased exports.

Menem's La Rioja is a sparsely populated province of 200,000 where high technology is needed to coax seedless grapes and jojoba from desert sand and heat.

Menem was born and raised in La Rioja, the second of four sons of Syrian immigrants who founded a successful vineyard and winery.

Re-elected
He notes with pride he has been re-elected twice, and does not dwell on the fact that his deficit-ridden province issues its own currency that is worthless outside its borders, nor on the national implications of his solution to economic stagnation: increased public spending.

Anxious for middle-class support to push him past the 50 per cent minimum he needs in the popular vote to win the election outright, Menem says he will promote political stability, social harmony and economic growth.

Businessmen and professionals, however, are wary of Menem and his plans for such things as a "social pact" among labour, capital and government. He insists the pact would help set budget policy, resolve wage disputes and establish price levels. He has not explained how it would be set up, function or be enforced.

Bush begins his presidency awash in political goodwill

By Terence Hunt

WASHINGTON, (AP): George Bush begins his presidency awash in political goodwill for the moment but strapped in the long run by a debt from former President Ronald Reagan's tenure. Bush's trick is to start his term without any money.

Bush has been trying to dampen expectations of a dazzling new start, perhaps hoping to ensure that any early achievements seem larger than life.

Dismissing the notion of a dramatic first 100 days, Bush said in an inauguration-eve interview, "I'm not shooting for any 100 days. And I think it's kind of a concept that doesn't really apply."

Bush is guaranteed of making a splash, though, just by comparison with the way Ronald Reagan did things. There will be plenty of differences to highlight — many of them that will depict Bush as a busy, hands-on manager in contrast to Reagan's laid-back style.

A late sleeper, Reagan never got to work before 9 am on his first day. Bush was on the move at 8 am, leading a tour of the White House for selected tour-

ists. On regular work days, Bush is expected to be in the Oval Office between 7 and 7:30 am.

In public and private appearances, Reagan relied heavily on prepared scripts and "talking points" written on file cards. Bush is more comfortable speaking off the cuff, though he, too, depends on speech writers to write formal remarks.

Where Reagan's schedule was carefully choreographed, Bush is spontaneous and often unpredictable. While Reagan consented to always be accompanied by the press, Bush said he won't wait around for reporters and will come and go as he pleases. "You just don't want to be totally isolated," he said.

There will be a big emphasis on family and children in the Bush White House. He has four grown-up sons and a daughter and 10 grandchildren who will be frequent visitors.

In contrast, Reagan and his wife Nancy were often estranged from their family.

While Reagan was not fond of travelling overseas, Bush loves it, making 40 separate foreign trips and visiting 74 nations since 1981. He'll go to Tokyo for the Feb 24 funeral of Emperor Hirohito and has not ruled out other

stops on that trip. A NATO summit in Brussels is likely in April, and an economic summit in Paris is set for July.

For Bush, the realities of the deficit loom over everything else on the domestic agenda.

On Feb 9, Bush will address a joint session of Congress to announce his budget priorities.

For now, at least, Congressional Democrats are treating Bush warmly. "Bush is extending the hand of friendship and we intend to extend ours in return," said Senate Majority leader George Mitchell.

Already the deficit has forced Bush to scale back on education initiatives and other plans. "Our funds are low," he said in his inaugural address. "We have a deficit to bring down. We have more will than wallet; but will is what we need."

Tough
While Bush and his lieutenants are hanging tough, polls show that a majority of Americans doubt that the new president will be able to live up to his promise not to raise taxes. He has to find billions of dollars for the savings and loan industry crisis, the cleanup and repair of the nation's nuclear weapon plants, and other costly problems.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1609 — Peace of Karlowitz is signed by Austria, Russia, Poland and Venice with Turkey.
- 1748 — Allies make new treaty for containing France.
- 1841 — British sovereignty is proclaimed over Hong Kong.
- 1885 — The Mahdi takes Khartoum in Sudan, and British General Charles Gordon is killed.
- 1931 — Mahatma Gandhi is released from prison in India for discussions with government.
- 1934 — Germany signs 10-year nonaggression pact with Poland.
- 1942 — First US expeditionary force arrives in Europe in World War II, with troops put ashore in Northern Ireland.
- 1952 — Famed Shepherd's Hotel in Cairo, Egypt, is burned during riots by mobs demanding British withdrawal from the Suez.
- 1957 — Kashmir constitution for incorporation with India goes into effect.
- 1969 — Fifteen people are sentenced to death in Iraq as spies or saboteurs in service of Israel.
- 1977 — United States charges that arrest of human rights activists in Czechoslovakia violates 1975 Helsinki agreement between communist and Western nations.
- 1986 — South Yemeni insurgents convene cabinet meeting under "Interim President" Haider Al Attas in Aden.
- 1987 — US President Ronald Reagan vows he will make no concessions to Lebanese terrorists, and warns Americans to get out of Lebanon.
- 1988 — First world summit on AIDS opens in London.

REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT



The architects of India's freedom: among the unique features of India's liberation struggle was the overwhelmingly non-violent character of its mass movement and its leadership deeply rooted in the ethos of democracy

A favourable balance sheet in just 40 years of freedom

India makes progress on all fronts

By Aswini K. Ray

Forty years in the life of a nation, belonging to a civilisation with a continuous history of over three thousand years, is relatively insignificant. Its true significance lies in terms of the qualitative appeal for its people in the era of freedom after centuries of servitude; the era of national liberation after a long struggle against colonial oppression.

Forty years ago, India began its "tryst with destiny," in the words of Jawaharlal Nehru — the visionary maker of modern India. The high tide of national resurgence, culminating in liberation, provided a new thrust to the country's developmental initiatives. But its achievements, and inadequacies, have to be viewed in historical context — its legacy and opportunities — which, in many ways, have shaped the balance sheet.

Among the inheritance of modern India, from its immediate past, were the structural distortions of a colonial political economy, and the political culture of post-colonial nationalism, as a counterforce. Its development strategy was, consequently, shaped initially by the dialectics of this historical inheritance.

Economic development in post-colonial India had to have a built-in mechanism geared to eliminate the distortions in the social, cultural, economic and political life of its people created by long colonial rule; and, such a developmental strategy had to effectively institutionalise the creative potentials of nationalist upsurge as the main catalytic spark of progressive change.

Its developmental policies, consisting of the goals, instruments, and policies, was, consequently, historically determined. The existential realities of mass poverty, recurrent famines, and widespread human degradation, at the dawn of independence, underscored the urgency of quick economic development. But the abiding continuity of its oppressive traditional social hierarchy, reinforced by the colonial process of "modernisation," compelled the importance of social transformation as a built-in component of any strategy of development.

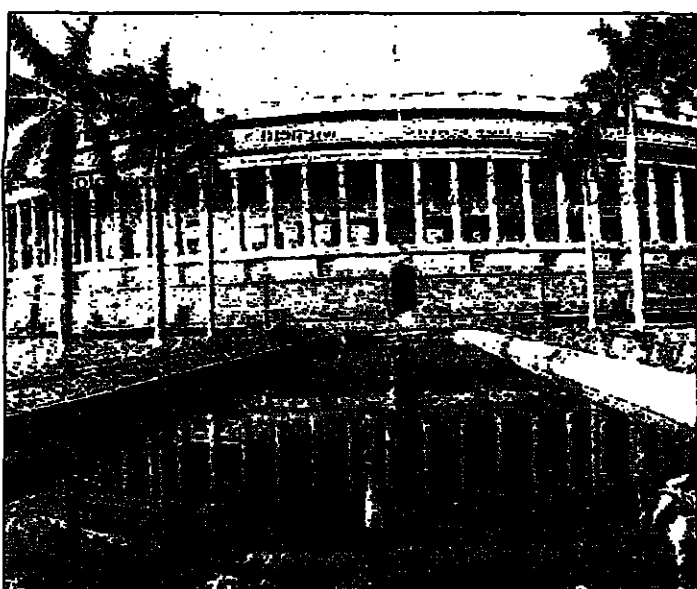
Regional disparity, within India's variegated social plurality — consisting of ascriptive identities like religion, language, caste, tribe, even spatial location — inherited from the colonial political economy, called for careful planning, with "positive discrimination" in favour of the weak, to ensure balanced growth as an input to nation-building.

Long experience of the hazards of dependence under colonial rule, inspired a healthy respect for the homely virtue of "self-reliance" in the developmental model.

Instruments
Like the goals, the instruments were also historically determined. Among the unique features of India's liberation struggle, was the overwhelmingly non-violent character of the mass movement, and its leadership deeply rooted in the Western liberal ethos of democracy and human rights.

Consequently its republican constitution, democratically voted into operation within three years of independence — by itself, no mean achievement, and, in a comparative sense, quite remarkable — created representative institutions based on

One of the main achievements of free India is the continuity of the country's basic democratic structure and the resilience of its republican constitution. Self-sufficiency in food is another. Diversification of its industrial base in the last forty years has made it leader in the intermediate level technology in the world. And capping it all is the country's unimpeachable non-aligned foreign policy record.



Parliament House, New Delhi: India's republican constitution was democratically voted into operation just three years after independence

universal adult franchise, and an inalienable character of democratic rights, that were to become the exclusive instruments of development.

From the beginning of the new era, a liberal democracy, replicating its Western counterparts, was created under different historical conditions from their origin and evolution in the West, and was called upon to be the exclusive vehicle of development which, in terms of its qualitative dimension as also of the scale, was not comparable with the Western countries.

One of the undoubted achievements of the era is the continuity of the country's basic democratic structure, and the resilience of its republican constitution, despite the inevitable stresses and strains of development and change.



India has the world's third-largest pool of technically-trained manpower after the two superpowers.

nerable, with its multi-tiered structural linkages, and, which is so much more difficult to resist within its open system.

The strategy not only enabled India to insulate its developmental politics from the rigours of the cold war, but also play a positive global role in opening up an "area of peace" from within the tight bipolar international system, and, subsequently, to instigate global reforms towards creating a new international economic, and information, order.

Within the constraints of its material power-base, the role of Indian foreign policy-inspired Non-Aligned Movement in promoting peace, disarmament, and global economic reforms is in no small measure derived from its innovative developmental politics which discreetly bypasses "conflict" cold war stereotypes.

Seven successive five-year plans based on this developmental strategy has progressively taken India post-colonial economy close to, what is referred by the economists, the "take-off stage" of development. More than that, it has enabled the economy to cushion itself from the hazards of natural calamities and external dependence in the critical sphere of food-production.

With an annual production of nearly 145 million tonnes of foodgrains, the country has reached self-sufficiency in this sphere despite an annual increase of two per cent in population. This "green revolution" has enabled the country to avoid the recurrent famines of the colonial era as well as dependence on food-imports so common in the early phase of planning. In the economic sphere, this may well be the single most important achievement of the era.

In the industrial field, the most striking achievement has been in the sphere of diversification of its production base, ranging from steel, other non-ferrous metals, power, heavy machinery, fertilisers, agro-industries, oil exploration, including off-shore drilling to service industries, electronics and consumer durables.

It has achieved self-sufficiency in refining capacity and its economy has been considerably insulated from the unpredictable hazards of the international oil politics.

This is reinforced by its diversified base of energy-source: ranging from nuclear, thermal, hydro-electric, natural gas to the conventional animal-power and the less conventional bio-gas, wind and solar power. This diversification of its industrial base, and a relatively large domestic market, has already made the economy significantly asymmetrical from many of the Third World economies, in terms of its ability to resist external subversions and international market fluctuations.

Striking
But, by far the most striking achievement of the last forty years in the industrial field is the creation of the world's third largest pool of technically-trained manpower, after the two superpowers. Supplemented by its high level industrial technology, and entrepreneurial skills, this vast reservoir of technical and managerial expertise has already made the country among the main source of intermediate-level technology in the international market; and, among the major suppliers of technically-skilled personnel, its more gifted

Violence, terrorism have no place in Indian society

ON THE eve of India's 40th Republic Day, President R. Venkataraman extended to Indians fraternal greetings and good wishes.

The President said "four decades ago, after we had attained independence under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership, our vast and diverse nation was galvanized into a republic with the *Desharajna*, Dr Rajendra Prasad taking office as our first president.

The renowned poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar wrote on that auspicious occasion (and I quote): "The world's biggest republic is now born so set yourself to enthroning, not one monarch but the thirty three crore people of India: so set yourself to coronate, not one monarch but the thirty three crore people of India."

The formation of the republic — the *Janatantra* or *Ganatantra* as we call it — brought our diverse people, closer together.

It was remarkable that our national consolidation took place without major upheavals or violence — thanks to the vision of our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the decisiveness of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the pragmatism of our national leaders.

This process of consolidation and integration has continued apace.

Chapter

A new chapter opened recently in Tripura where some sections realising the futility of violence, joined the mainstream of the national development process. Likewise, the setting up of the Hill Council in Darjeeling and elections thereto, has brought peace to an area which threatened to become explosive.

The peace-loving nature of our people as a whole constitutes a



R. Venkataraman, President of India

positive sign and encourages us to hope for a workable solution to the torment of Punjab. Continuing terrorist violence in that state anguishes all of us. But it is heartening that in their efforts to combat terrorism, the authorities are receiving full co-operation from the people of the state.

It is my belief that the holding of Panchayat elections in the state, will help the process of restoration of peace and normalcy in Punjab.

Commitment

Violence and terrorism have no place in any civilized society much less in India which is the home of Ahimsa. The perpetration of violent acts, especially on totally innocent victims, therefore causes the greatest sorrow to us.

But wisdom lies in refusing to let the acts of a few to provoke us into any form of rancour or ill will between communities or regions. The people of India have a deep faith in peaceful, democratic order. This faith of our people must be zealously protected and strengthened.

Nagaland and Mizoram as you all know went to the polls along with Tamil Nadu only last week, re-affirming once again the nation's deep commitment to the democratic process. No matter who or which political party wins an election, the real winner is the voter.

In a developing society, however, mere representation is not enough: participation and continuing progress are also necessary.

Our national ethos which is built up of several sub-national impulses, needs to be absorbed into the nation's progress towards a better life for its people.

Forty years ago, the light of life in the overwhelming part of the country burned dimly. Our agriculture functioned at subsistence levels, our industry was minimal. But, thanks to our successive plans and the harnessing of science and technology for economic development, the picture has vastly changed.

Effects

The economy showed remarkable strength and resilience to withstand several adversities, including the recent severe drought of 1987: there has been a remarkable recovery in 1988.

Agricultural production is expected to recover fully from the adverse effects of the drought and the year 1988-89 is expected to show a record production of foodgrains and oilseeds.

This has been rendered possible by the infrastructure developed over the years and policy initiatives of government, together with the diligence and devotion of the farming community of India.

A significant aspect of the economy in recent years has been the rapid growth of industry and

(Continued on Page 11)

Contacts with Kuwait growing



N.N. Jha

I AM delighted to extend to my fellow countrymen heartfelt felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the 39th anniversary of the Republic Day of India — Jan 26, 1989.


The entire nation proudly observes the occasion with a sense of historicity as befitting it, as the day — 26th Jan — signifies the emergence of world's largest democracy, which had earlier shaken off the yoke of colonialism, as a Republic.

The year just gone has been a much more rewarding and fulfilling year as compared with the year preceding it.

In 1987-88 our economy faced a major onslaught due to the unprecedented drought of 1987, but to the relief of all Indians, we managed to weather the storm, thereby, in the process proving the economy's basic resilience and underlying strength.

The last year has also coincided with two major anniversaries: in the first half with the ongoing celebrations of the 39th anniversary of India's independence and, subsequently, with the observance of the birth centenary of the much revered and

(Continued on Page 11)






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Indian industry opens up to foreign capital

After years of a highly sheltered and protected economy, the country is opening up and exposing its industry to international competition.

By Mahesh Prasad

A WEST GERMAN industrialist with a happy experience of collaboration with India once advised his compatriot looking for investment opportunities abroad to go to India. He was startled by the suggestion: "Where are you driving me—to a country torn asunder by violence?"

Narrating the incident to a group of Indian and foreign journalists, the German industrialist said this was the impression foreigners got on reading their newspapers. All that appeared on India in the foreign press related to terrorism in Punjab, which gave a very distorted picture about the country.

Stability

Those who have lived and worked in India know that the situation is far different and that even in Punjab, life is normal but for some stray incidents in remote corners of the state. As the German industrialist himself pointed out, India alone among the developing countries has had an uninterrupted record of political stability. In the economic field too there has been a tremendous progress.

After years of a highly sheltered and protected economy, the country is not opening up and exposing its industry to international competition. The process which began in the early 1980s, has been accelerated considerably under the leadership of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The areas,

where policy has been successfully translated into action include electronics and the automobile industry, particularly the two-wheeler segment. Following this success, the government has decided to selectively throw open more areas to foreign investment.

India is a vast country with a population of about 800 million. Over the last four decades of its existence as an independent nation, it has undergone remarkable transformation and emerged as one of the leading industrial powers of the world. The large reservoir of skilled and unskilled manpower is its richest asset. In terms of scientific and technical manpower, India ranks third in the world.

A protected, sheltered and regulated environment was essential for India's economic growth in the initial years of independence, when industry was in a nascent stage of development and needed protection for survival against foreign competition. However, while a protected and sheltered atmosphere was needed for building up an industrial infrastructure, it made the Indian entrepreneur highly complacent and the result was a sellers' market. Confident that he could sell whatever he produced, the Indian industrialist had no need to spend on research and development.

By the early eighties the government had realised the need to expose the domestic industries to foreign competition. Collaboration with Suzuki of Japan for the Maruti

small car project had shown the way. It virtually revolutionised the domestic automobile sector, which was forced to bring out newer and more fuel-efficient models. The results were more spectacular in the two-wheeler segment with a proliferation of collaborations and a doubling of production in the last three years of a million and a half units annually.

Climate

With a view to creating a climate for higher growth, several changes have been brought about in the industrial policy. The minimum capacity in a large number of industries has been raised to capitalise on economies of scale, broadening allowed to enable production of similar goods and import of capital goods and foreign know-how liberalised in selected fields. The government has exempted industries with an investment of less than Rs.150 million (approximately \$US 10 million) from obtaining industrial licence. Industries with an investment of less than Rs.500 million have also been similarly exempted, provided these are set up in stipulated backward areas. These exemptions are subject to the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act and also not having investments in fixed assets in land, building, plant and machinery worth more than Rs.1 billion. Also, it should not be a foreign company, or its branch or subsidiary, where direct investment in equity is more than 40

per cent.

The major thrust in various policy reforms has been on a progressive shift from discretionary quantitative controls to non-discretionary fiscal controls and on building greater competitive pressure to improve quality and reduce costs.

The Indian government welcomes foreign investment in areas requiring high technology or having a high export potential. Recently it announced that foreign collaboration for the manufacture of consumer goods, such as soft drinks, shaving blades and footwear could be considered on merits. If such collaboration is justified taking into consideration the technology involved and the potential for export.

India has made remarkable progress in many sophisticated industries, like fertilisers, oil-refining, petro-chemicals, pharmaceuticals, power generation, transmission and distribution operations, sugar, textiles, cement, paper, steel, as also nuclear energy and space technology. The country, not only meets its own requirements for a wide variety of industrial products, but also exports them to a large number of countries. It has a sound infrastructure for industrial growth which includes, a wide network of railways, roads, ports, shipping and air transport, telecommunications, banking, capital markets, technological and research organisations, besides managerial

and technical expertise.

While exporting manufactured goods, India also trades in technology with a number of countries. As on December 31, 1987, there were 182 Indian joint ventures in different sectors of industry in 35 countries, including developed countries. The capital market in the country is buoyant.

Industries which are expected to register rapid increases in output in future are petrochemicals, plastics, fertilisers, aluminium, electronics, telecommunications equipment and computers. Apart from basic industries, the ever-important areas of development would be mass consumption goods and export-oriented industries.

Rapid development of industry necessitates quick adoption of technology available in industrial countries for the manufacture of components and spare parts. Direct foreign investment will also have to play a major role in view of the larger need for financial resources to sustain a higher growth rate. The government is laying greater stress on direct foreign investments as commercial borrowings lead to pressures on the balance of payments.

The foreign investment policy has been substantially modified in recent years. Payment for technology is allowed both in lump-sum as well as in the form of recurring royalty. Royalty payment is normally restricted to five years from the commencement of production or eight years from the date of agreement. It is generally allowed up to five per cent of sales and is worked out on the basis of an agreed formula. A higher royalty and a longer duration for payment can be considered in special cases. Remittances of royalties, technical fees, interest, dividends, etc. are freely permitted, subject to the payment of Indian taxes. No income-tax clearance certificate is required if tax at 30 per cent is paid.

More recently, in a major relaxation of investment policy, the government has decided that foreign equity participation would be allowed selectively in existing companies, subject to certain guidelines. The guidelines stipulate that foreign equity investment would be allowed in an existing company up to a monetary limit of Rs.100 million or 40 per cent of the paid-up capital of the company, whichever is less. Furthermore, the procedures for investment are being simplified, certain irritants in this respect being removed, with a view to bringing in foreign investment on a "fast track".

Collaborations

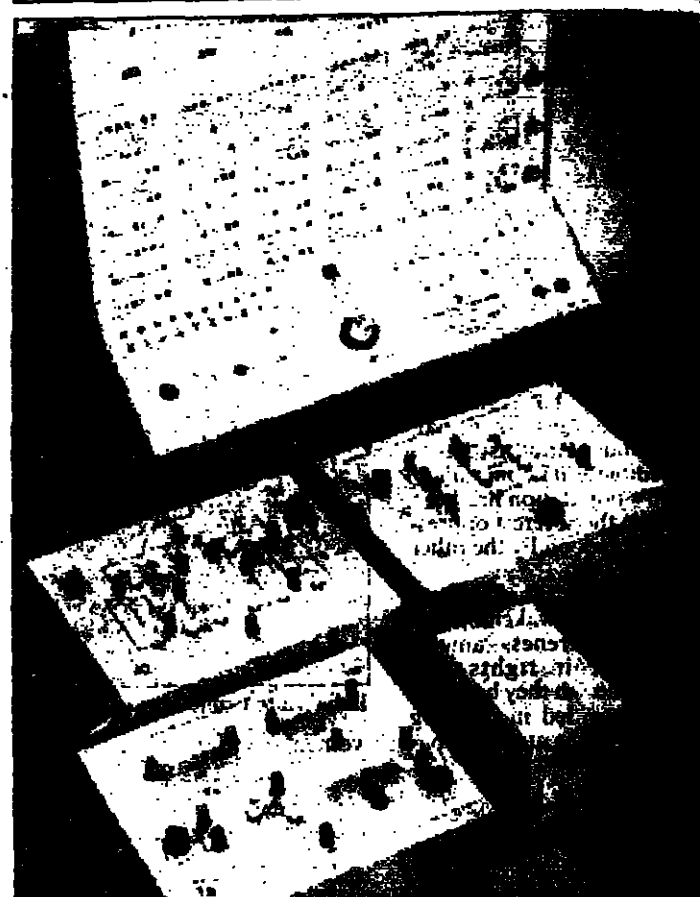
Already the pace of foreign investment in India has considerably accelerated. Altogether 11,470 industrial collaborations were signed during the 30-year period between 1957 and 1987 (averaging 382 a year). Other, 1,810 were approved in the last two years—957 in 1986 and 853 in 1987. And up to September this year (1988) another 642 collaboration proposals were approved. The volume of foreign investment involved was Rs.1,077 million in 1987 and Rs.1,693 million upto September 1988, as against a mere Rs.56 million in 1979.

India has always freely allowed repatriation of capital and profits. Foreign investors received from India remittances to the tune of approximately Rs.4,023 million in 1984-85 by way of profits, dividends, know-how fees and royalties, as against Rs.428 million in 1965-66. Studies made by some overseas organisations of foreign joint ventures, indicate that the experience of these ventures in terms of profitability, growth of sales and assets has been very satisfying.

Two emerging areas for foreign investments are the food processing industry and electronics, particularly software. Realising the importance of processed food, the government has set up a separate ministry to ensure accelerated progress of the industry. Although India produces large quantities of fruits and vegetables it is estimated that on an average 30 per cent of the produce perishes for want of proper processing.



The Maruti small car project: collaboration with Suzuki of Japan, has revolutionised the domestic automobile sector



Industries which are targeted for future growth are electronics and computers.

India has made remarkable progress in the electronics industry as well. Nevertheless, efforts are being made to achieve an accelerated growth and to have a turnover of Rs.100,000 million in the terminal year of the Seventh Five Year Plan i.e. 1990. This is essential, if the target of Rs.500,000 million by the year 2000 is to be reached. Substantial investments have already been made in the fields of consumer electronics, the communications sector and computer industry. India with its large pool of trained manpower is considered specially suited for the development of software. A few multinationals

have already negotiated the setting up of project in India with buy-back arrangements. Although there have been complaints of bureaucratic delays and foreign exchange control, the experience of foreign investors in India has been, by and large, a happy one. For a foreign investor, it is worthwhile to note that India has a democratic form of government and a modern judicial system. He should know that foreign investment in India is not subject to political risks and even when enterprises were nationalised in public interest in the past, foreign concerns were not disturbed. (PTI Feature)

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India makes progress on all fronts

(Continued from Page 7)

section, successfully competing against the best in their fields within the advanced industrial countries of the world.

On the threshold of the 21st century, the young Prime Minister of the country has already given a clarion-call towards a quantum-jump in the modernisation of the economy. With this end in view, to expose the economy to greater international competition than as possible in its sheltered market of the earlier phase, the controls of the earlier era pertaining to investment, exchange, imports, and technical collaboration have been liberalised, predictably, with more support from the Western powers and international aid-giving agencies.

Their support, along with the traditional friendship with the socialist world, both within the frame-work of India's time-tested policy of non-alignment, supplemented by the confidence and optimism based on the achievements of the earlier era, may help in decisively shaping the future course of India's developmental politics in the 21st century, away from the historical memories, and the structural constraints, of the initial phase of its post-colonial nation-building.

But the wisdom and vision of the "Founding Fathers" would still be remembered as having prepared the launching-base for such a quantum-jump to modernisation of a traditional society, with its multiple tiers of historical distortions, within only four decades of its new millennium.

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Indian women storm male bastions

With independence, Indian women have come out with determination and in several cases have actually outstripped men in attaining positions of power and levels of excellence.

By Jaishree Balasubramanian

"WOMEN are perhaps the largest underprivileged group in the world..." These words of Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, spoken at the Non-Aligned Movement conference in 1985, aptly sum up the condition of women the world over.

Right from the dawn of civilisation, women have suffered serious disabilities — social, economic, indeed in all aspects of life. Incredible as it is, one half of the world's population has been subjected to the severest oppression and repression by the other half.

But no longer. This century has witnessed an awakening and a growing awareness among women of their rights and privileges. Though they have not yet fully succeeded in realising these, their efforts at emancipation have certainly borne fruit. A feature of the freedom movement in India under Mahatma Gandhi was, for instance, the sight of women participating in large numbers, almost shoulder to shoulder with men and even going to jail in the national cause. Examples of similar glorious role of women in national movements are available from other parts of the world too.

With the independence in 1947, Indian women have come out with even greater determination and in several cases, have actually outstripped men in attaining positions of power and levels of excellence. The right to equal opportunities and self-determination, as sanctified by the constitution, has enabled them to break the shackles of tradition and orthodoxy, though in certain areas, women's emancipation has not been very perceptible. The process of change is on, and as Margaret Alva, Minister of Youth and Women's Affairs, puts it, "a lot still needs to be done".

Recounting the steps initiated by the government to improve the status of women, Alva pointed out that the initial emphasis during the fifties was "to provide them legal aid through welfare boards. Stress was also laid through projects under the Five Year Plans, on education, health, nutrition and family welfare. These steps have significantly improved the quality of life of the Indian woman and brought her into the mainstream of society."

Two events in the last decade led to a shift in the emphasis of



A woman labourer: playing the supportive role and sharing the burden with grit and determination



India's late Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, reviews a parade of women police cadets.

women's welfare programmes from "development" to their being "involved" in the planning and decision making process. The first was the report of the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) in 1984 which came out with some interesting observations. It revealed that while life expectancy for females had improved from 44.7 years in 1960-71 to 52.9 years in 1971-81; the sex ratio registered a minuscule rise from 930 women per thousand men in 1971 to 933 in 1981. In the decade 1971 to 1981, the average age at marriage for girls rose from 17.2 years to 18.3 years.

The second incident was the revival of the barbaric practice of sati which was banned in 1829. Last year, in a remote village of Rajasthan, a 19-year-old girl leapt into the funeral pyre of her husband, sending shock waves across the country. Almost immediately, the Government swung into action and within three months, passed the Sati Prevention Act on December 1987. Under the Act, both glorification and abetment of sati is punishable with imprisonment and fines.

Employment

Furthermore, a National Action Plan for Women has been devised and a Women's Welfare and Development Bureau set up under the Ministry of Social Welfare. It is proposed to have similar sub-units for monitoring programmes for women, and in turn equip them — particularly those in backward areas — with the necessary skills and wherewithal to attain economic independence. Thanks to these

efforts, the work participation rate of women has increased from 14.15 per cent in 1971 to 19.76 per cent in 1981.

While the increased rate of female employment does not necessarily imply an immediate improvement in their social status (figures indicate an increasing number of women being pushed into the category of agricultural labourers), it does create a certain measure of social independence. This is being further bolstered with numerous training schemes initiated at the village and district levels by the government.

Today, labour laws in the country provide for special benefits to women like maternity leave, insurance schemes, medical compensation and so on. A recent act provides for the regulation of working hours in factories, mines and plantations, making it illegal to compel women to work from 7 pm to 6 am. Measures to ensure their safety and provision of creches for their infants at work sites are being enforced.

Other legislative measures initiated of late, include the Equal Remuneration Act which prevents discrimination against women in matters of employment. The marriage laws have been amended to enable a girl to repudiate, before maturity, her marriage as a child, whether it is consummated or not. Cruelty and desertion are grounds for divorce and mutual consent of the partners has been recognised.

Amendments have also been made in the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, making it more effective and stringent.

Crimes against women like rape and "dowry deaths" attract more severe punishment. However, as Alva concedes: "Dowry is still prevalent in several parts of the country and receives social sanction. No amount of legislation and deterrent punishment can stop this until women themselves decide to fight the evil."

The Dowry Prohibition Act, which makes the offence of giving or taking dowry cognisable, had nevertheless yielded results. Earlier, what was dismissed as "suicides", is being registered as a dowry death. "Many cases are now coming into statistics, something that did not happen before," Alva adds.

Last year, the Indian parliament passed the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, banning the sale, distribution or circulation of any material which projects women in poor light. Through a large number of voluntary agencies including the 12,000-member Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) founded by Ela Bhatt, the hitherto unorganised women are also being increasingly made aware of their rights.

Right now, a National Perspective Plan for Women is being formulated to take stock of their needs in the next 12 years — upto 2000 A.D. A draft which is ready, makes a detailed assessment of all the schemes initiated and the progress made so far in raising the status of women. The perspective now is to integrate them as "critical inputs" in the nation-building endeavour, rather than to see them as recipients of government generosity.

Consumer revolution in progress

Under the policy of economic liberalisation, India's once-dreary restricted economy now sports a thriving consumer market place that analysts say has improved life for many urban Indians.

By Sheila Tefft

NEW DELHI: On a recent afternoon in a suburban New Delhi bazaar, shopkeeper Arun Gupta was doing a brisk business in home appliances.

A plump matron in an expensive sari bought a food processor. A half-dozen other customers waited to purchase ovens, pop-corn makers, and electric tea kettles. A man loaded a water heater into his compact, Japanese-style car, while a couple perused a display of washing machines.

"Business is usually like this. People are ready to buy no matter how high prices go," says Gupta, who opened his appliance store three years ago. "People are living more luxuriously than ever before."

The buying binge in Gupta's shop reflects India's new emphasis on consumerism. Major economic changes and the growing clout of the middle class have spurred demand for a vast array of Indian-made consumer products that could not be found in stores four years ago.

Liberalization

Under Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the economic liberalization launched by his mother, the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has received greater emphasis. As a result, India's once-dreary, restricted economy now sports a thriving consumer marketplace that analysts say has improved life for many urban Indians.

But this same consumerism, fuelled by the growth of television advertising, has accentuated the gap between rich and

poor in a society where about 20 per cent of the 800 million people control 50 per cent of the wealth.

For instance, not far from a bustling middle-class market here, Kanshi Ram, his wife, and their child live in a makeshift settlement.

"In another year, I will be able to buy a radio," says Ram, a construction labourer. "Then, I will start saving for a watch."

Many social scientists and commentators worry about the dark side of India's consumer revolution.

The middle class, they say, has been caught up in the consumer glitz, blinding them to the plight of the largely rural poor who cannot afford even the smallest item in an urban market.

Social observers say rising aspirations have triggered a new wave of corruption and crime as incomes have failed to keep pace with price increases.

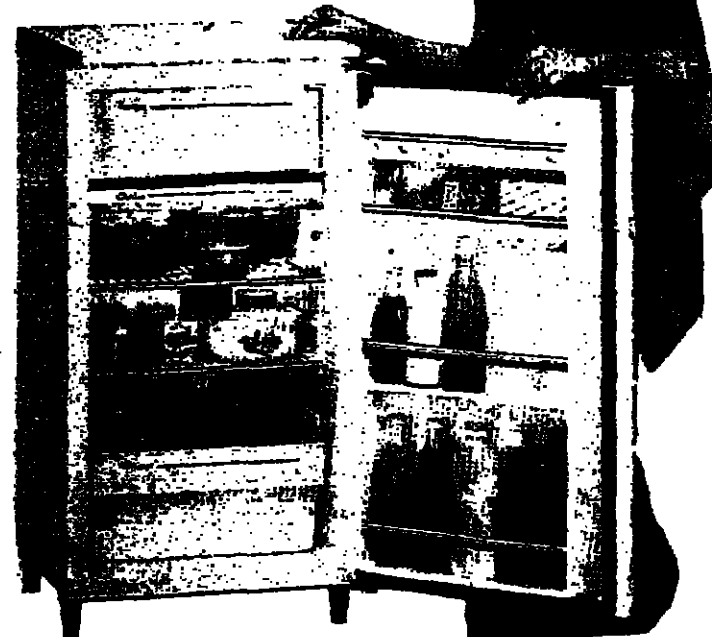
Flooding

Growing numbers of rural Indians are flooding the cities in search of work and riches.

"Consumerism has raised both expectations and a sense of deprivation," says Devendra Gupta, a New Delhi economist and consumer specialist. "If that brings new frustrations and tensions, it could lead to more instability."

India's consumer boom is likely to pick up steam in the coming years. The estimated 160-million-strong middle class is expected to grow to 300 million by the turn of the century. This will make India one of the world's largest consumer markets.

A housewife proudly displays her newly-purchased, Indian-made refrigerator.



That has grabbed the attention of foreign companies, which are increasingly taking advantage of the new economic freedoms brought in by Gandhi. In collaboration with Indian firms, the makers of Pepsi Cola, Wrangler jeans, and Barbie dolls have, or will soon have, products on the Indian market.

"This is a market bigger than Britain and France combined," an American businessman says. "This is a market that can't be ignored."

In a bid to keep a tight grip on India's planned economy, the state bureaucracy has forced Prime Minister Gandhi to curtail some of his planned liberalization. Still, observers say the consumer revolution is here to stay.

Nowhere is the consumer boom more apparent than in the capital, New Delhi. The roads are jammed with the zippy new compact car, the Maruti, built in collaboration with the Japanese and now the status symbol of middle-class ascendancy.

High-rise apartments are popping up near gracious government buildings and residential bungalows left from British days. Affluent suburbs sprawl at the

city limits, crowded with homes of scratch after the turmoil of independence in 1947. Video-cassette shops and fast-food restaurants abound.

Luxury hotels are booked solid for elaborate weddings. Restaurants and bars are full of young migrants from neighbouring affluent Punjab state who proudly call themselves "puppies" — Punjabi urban professionals.

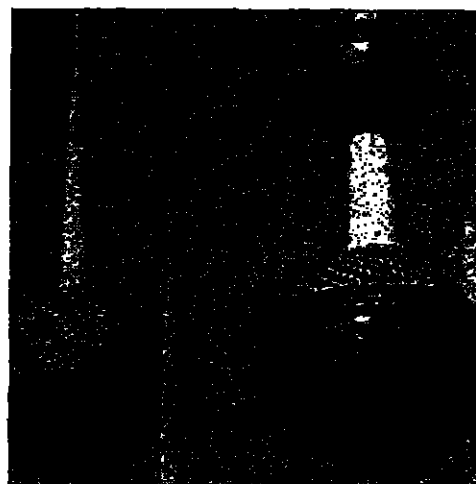
But many middle-class Indians have yet to come to grips with the changes sweeping their country. They are steeped in the socialist ideals of independent India's early leaders. They are critical of the materialism of the West, and they are being inundated with the new consumerism at home.

Mrinal Pande, a New Delhi journalist and social commentator, says, for example: "Contrary to what many Indians say, we are an acquisitive country because we know what it is to be poor. The middle class has no sense of enjoyment in consumer goods because it is insecure and knows it is an island in a sea of poverty."

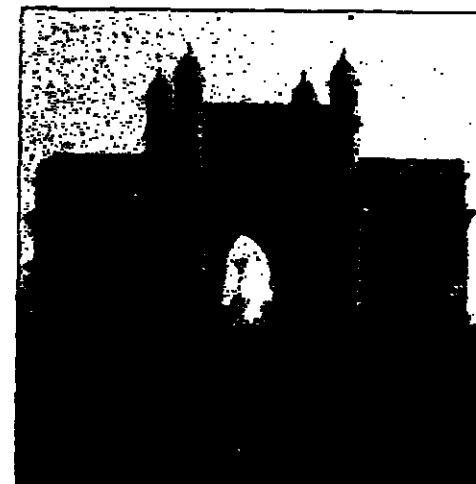
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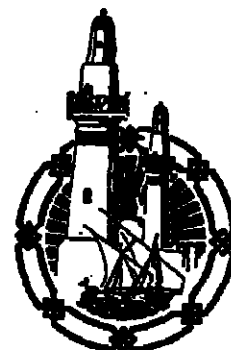
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SO MUCH SECURITY FOR SO LITTLE.



The increase in productivity has largely been a result of the increase in irrigated areas in the north-west of the country.

Optimism for breakthrough in agriculture

By V. Sridhar

INDIAN agriculture, which sustains life for nearly three quarters of the population, suffered a serious blow in 1987.

The drought of 1987, said to be the worst this century, resulted in foodgrain production declining by nearly 10 per cent. Things may not have been as bad if it had not been for the fact that 1987-88 was the third drought affected year in succession.

Three particularly bad years, beginning in 1985-86, are estimated to have brought down production from 152 million tonnes in 1984-85 to about 138 million tonnes last year. Thus, the actual output is roughly 12 per cent below the trend output of 157 million tonnes.

It is estimated that more than 60 per cent of all cultivated land has been affected by the drought particularly affecting the Kharif crop (summer plantings) which provides nearly 60 per cent of India's foodgrain output.

To make matters worse, the eastern region of the country was affected by floods later in the year.

Positive

However, the positive aspect has been the marked resilience of the agricultural sector to absorb the weather-induced stress unlike in previous drought affected years. A lot of hope had therefore been placed on the Rabi harvest (winter plantings) this year to relieve the country of the effects of bad harvest in the last few years.

The latest estimates from the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that the Rabi output has reached record levels — 66.5 million tonnes — surpassing the previous best of 65.29 million tonnes in 1985-86.

Indian agriculture has come a long way since the late 1960s when the Green Revolution was initiated. The strategy basically had two dimensions — one, the

technical package of inputs provided to farmers was expected to lift backward agriculture to new heights; and two, this was coupled with higher price incentives to farmers to induce them to grow more.

The technical package included providing subsidised fertilisers, pesticides and irrigation facilities to farmers. Since about three quarters of cultivated land is devoted to foodgrain production, the emphasis of the Green Revolution was primarily on boosting foodgrain output.

The efforts of this strategy bore fruit by the mid-1970s when foodgrain production reached 121 million tonnes — compared to 100 million tonnes six years earlier.

Increase

Clearly Indian agriculture was now on a new growth path. The next big break came in 1984-85 when foodgrain production crossed the 150 million tonne mark — but since then there has been a stagnation in agricultural performance. Much of this has been attributed to the weather but there are others who wonder whether Indian agriculture has reached a phase of structural retrogression.

Things would have been far worse if Indian food planners had not accumulated high levels of grain stocks simultaneously with the sharp increases in foodgrain production in the mid-1970s.

In this, the agricultural strategy played a crucial role. Even as the country made sharp gains in foodgrain production, the government's procurement machinery worked well.

The government's policy of paying remunerative prices to farmers played a lead role in this success. Government intervention in the grain market led to a sharp increase in procurement — from a level of 9.5 million tonnes



A farmer displays the benefit of his toil.

in 1975 to 20 million tonnes in 1985-86.

Another important result of this strategy of the government was that foodgrain prices rose at a slower rate during this period as compared to prices of industrial commodities.

The government's entry into the market played an important role by allowing it to exercise greater role in determining supplies in the market by dismantling its stocks through its Public Distribution System (PDS). This, it may be noted, played an important role in preventing sharp increase in prices as, in India, sharp increase in foodgrain prices can lead to spiralling inflation.

This stockpiling was made possible largely as a result of the mopping-up of huge surpluses in the heartland of the Green Revolution — Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.

Consequently, the government was able to, on the one hand, use the grain stocks for meeting the vagaries of the monsoon and, on the other, use the grain procured in the market to reach it to the people through the PDS. Incidentally, it may be pointed out that the Indian PDS, in spite of all its drawbacks, is acclaimed to be one of the most efficient of its types in the Third World. As a result of these factors, it was possible to avert an outright famine in 1987. The levels of grain stocks stood at nearly 23 million tonnes in 1987 and this helped in absorbing the weather-induced shock. In the years between 1985 and 1987 the government distributed nearly 50 million tonnes through its PDS network.

The most important result of this policy has been that, unlike in the past — especially in the mid-1960s when the country had to go in for large volumes of imports — in the current year, as a result of grain stocks, the country did not find it necessary to import huge quantities of cereals to meet the shortage.

Between 1964-65 and 1967-68, net imports of the government had amounted to more than 30 million tonnes. Compared to this, the government's decision to import only one million tonnes of US wheat this year indicates the extent to which Indian agriculture has become self-sufficient.

All this does not mean that the government can afford to rest on its laurels and that there are no longer any problems on the agricultural front. Indeed the government has itself admitted that much of the gains made during the last two decades have been concentrated in a few pockets of the country.

The increase in productivity has largely been a result of the increase in irrigated area in the north-west of the country. It has also been observed that much of the increase in agricultural production has occurred in this part of the country. It is estimated that, between 1970-71 and 1984-85, foodgrain output in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana grew at the rate of 5.92, 4.32 and 3.9 per cent per annum, respectively.

This was far higher than the growth rate of population in these states during this period. The performance has not been as spectacular in the rest of the country. It has also been noted that the gains in agricultural productivity have largely been confined to wheat and that the breakthrough in rice farming has remained elusive. The Planning Commission has noted, in its Mid-Term Appraisal of the Seventh Plan (1985-86 to 1989-90), that much of the gains made in agricultural performance in recent times has been a result of yield increases in the north of the country and that the use of modern inputs has to spread if Indian agriculture is to achieve the breakthrough.

By T.G. Nallamuthu

WHEN a top executive of Philips, Holland, visited some electronic units in the United States he was surprised to find, in key positions, many young technocrats from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM). This surprise soon turned into curiosity and propelled Dr P. Cramer Sr., Managing Director and International Research Co-ordinator of Philips, to visit IITM and learn at first hand the pre-eminent status of this Institute.

What makes this Institute of Technology so great that quite a few of the 300 and odd students get absorbed in industries all over the world and about fifteen to twenty per cent go abroad for higher studies, eventually teach and work in high-tech industries there? A faculty of international repute, excellent technical and supporting staff, an effective administration and of course a brilliant student community, says Prof. L.S. Srinath, Director of IITM. The high flexibility of the examination schedule and the credit system at the Institute enables the students to achieve excellence in chosen fields.

IIT Madras is an advanced academic institution where innovative engineering begins. It is an institution that is dedicated to more than just a continuous generation of trained manpower, an institution that believes high technology must ultimately walk out from universities and laboratories to the factory, the field and the home; an institution that is trying to bridge the gap between formal academic research and industrial activity.

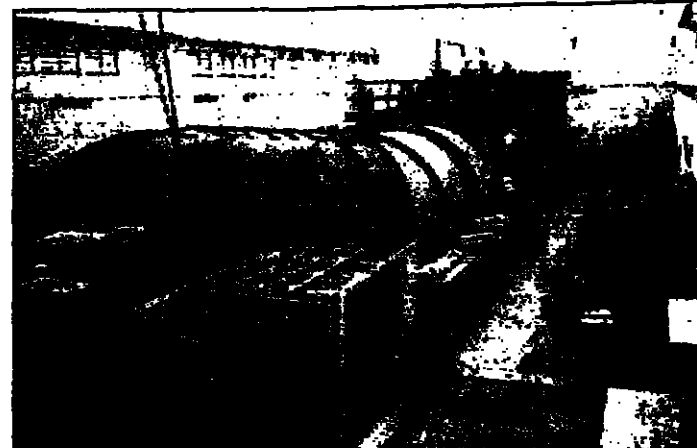
Established

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, was established in 1959 as one of the five institutes (Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur) of national importance (Another one is to be set up shortly in Assam).

The Federal Republic of Germany aided it both technically and financially to make it the largest West German aided educational project in the world. Located in what was originally a deer park of about 700 acres, it is one of the greenest campuses in the country, still retaining the foliage and the deer population.

IITM works on four major fronts — teaching, research,

IIT Madras: a home for innovative engineering

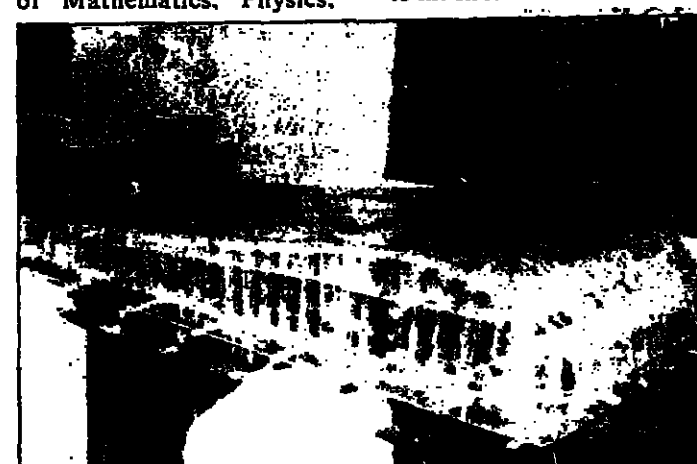


Wind tunnels for aerodynamic studies.

industrial consultancy and continuing education. The academic curriculum of IITM leads to B. Tech., M. Tech., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in as many as 15 disciplines. Besides engineering departments like Aeronautical, Chemical, Civil, Computer Science, Electrical, Mechanical and Metallurgical, the Institute also has advanced departments of Mathematics, Physics,

Chemistry, Humanities and Social Sciences.

The widely diversified faculty who have been trained in leading industrial and academic institutions in the developed countries are continually in touch with their counterparts elsewhere. Eminent people from the industry serve as adjunct faculty bringing in their rich industrial experience to the classroom.



Model testing of a ship hull structure.

Crowning it all, the 2000 strong Alumni Association with its Headquarters at Houston, Texas which is something unique for IIT Madras provides a vital link between the past and the present students and faculty. Past students provide material and academic support (they have gifted \$100,000 worth of personal computers).

Whenever they come to India they visit the institute and share their knowledge. Whenever existing students and faculty go over to United States they provide all linkages and facilities. All this has provided the springboard for IITM's growth as a giant force in academic excellence, industrial research and consultancy.

IITM has 12 departments, including laboratories and centres for advanced research equipped with advanced workshop facilities — laboratories that have extensive facilities for studies on vibrations tribology, acoustics, signature analysis, stress analysis, fatigue testing, compression testing, testing facilities for IC engines, gears, lubricants, changers, high speed compressors, multi-story structures, shell roof structures, underground tunnels, flow research and energy converting machines.

Range IITM also has a wide range of unique central service facilities that are open to other technical institutions and industrial organisations like Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre, Ocean Engineering Centre, Central Electronics Research Centre, Materials Research Centre, Fibre Optics Research Centre, Plasma Research Centre, Centre for Continuing Education which periodically conducts courses for industrial personnel.

It has a Computer Centre which has facilities for hardware, software, network, database design and computer aided manufacturing. With suitable assistance provided both by the Govt. of India and the Govt. of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Institute has been able to acquire a new sophisticated computer system from the Siemens. These are being used in complicated fields like Forensic Science, Satellite Imagery and offshore drilling.

(Continued on Page 11)

JAI HIND



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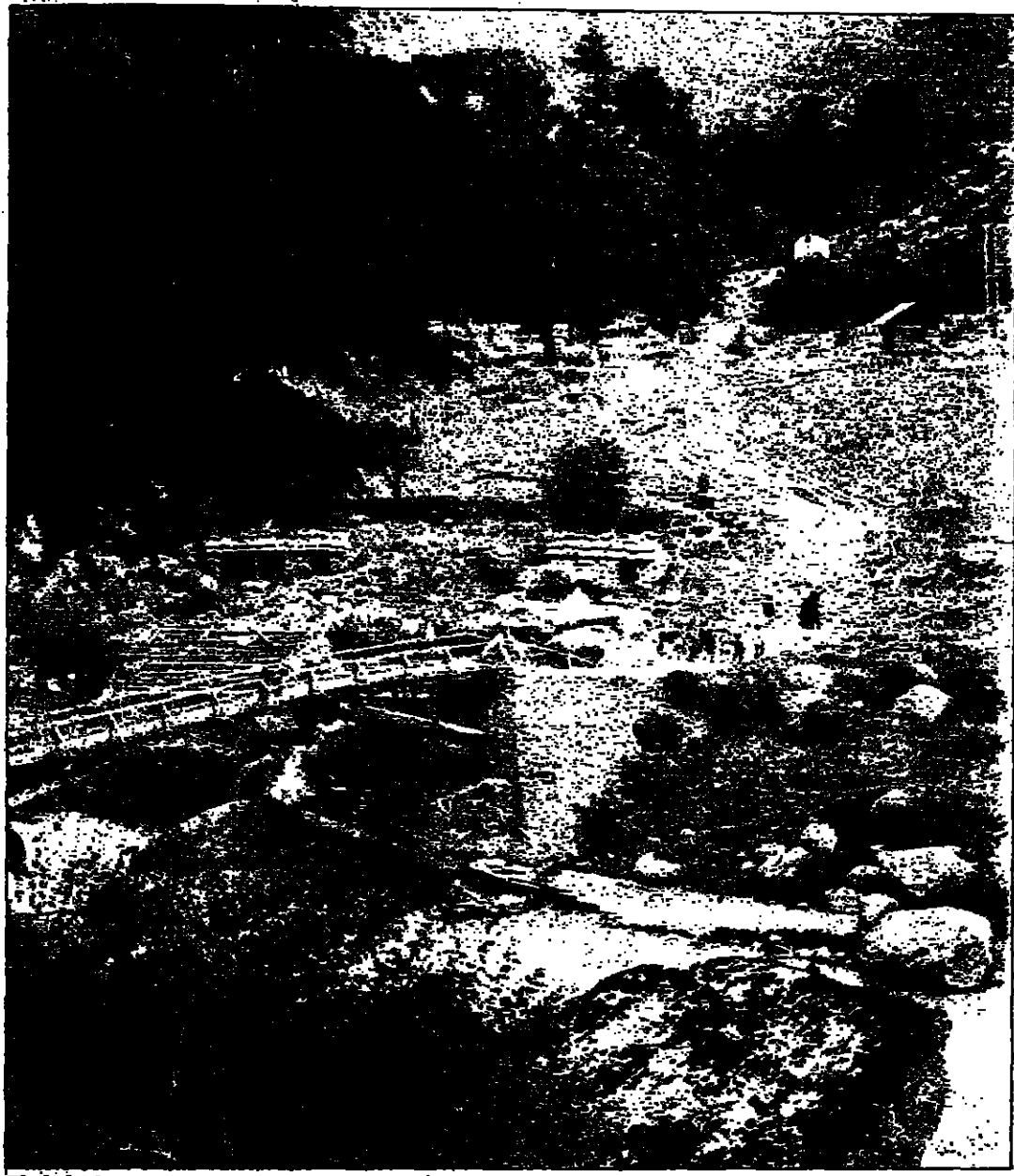
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REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA: AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 26-27, 1989



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Amongst its solemn deodars, towering scented pines and fanciful hill hugging villas were taken decisions that changed the lives of millions.

Dreamers

Every season, thousands of dreamers still head for Simla, as gay, tempting and intellectually awakened today as it was in its heyday as the "summer capital" of British India.

Along the grey ribbon of concrete that loops and winds its way 120 kilometres from Chandigarh to the cool, inviting hills of Simla, gleaming vehicles climb in an unending stream all through the summer.

They come from far flung places, carrying loads of expectant travellers gazing out of the windows, gulping in the pure mountain air.

By the time they arrive in Simla, now the proud capital of India's northern state of Himachal Pradesh, most passengers are somewhat intoxicated by the heady sights, the prospect of finding an Eldorado. Some come in the hope of meeting others.

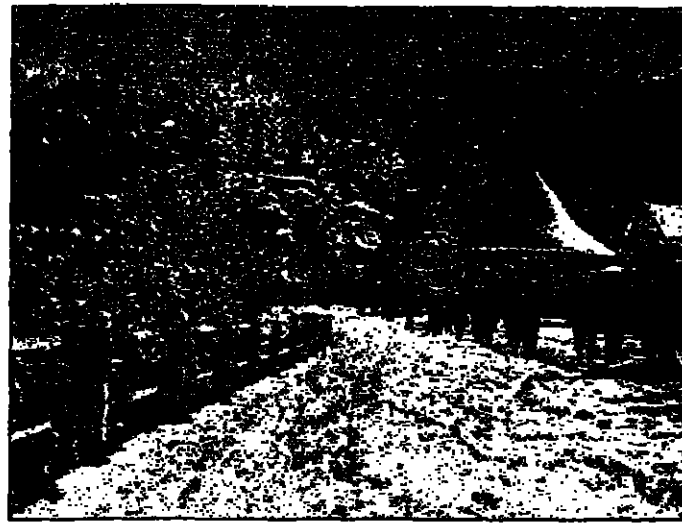
A few, a little disappointed in life, journey to Simla in the belief that its stimulating beauty will rekindle the fires of youth.

Crowds

Everywhere in Simla are crowds of visitors leisurely chasing sweet illusions. Pretty girls show themselves off. Excited children from the plains attempt to run down every hill and clamber up every slope. The modern day tourists in Simla are a breed apart. The majority belong to the new, upwardly mobile middle class out to discover the regal delights of a stylish hill station in summer.

There is too, a sprinkling of summer refugees from an affluent society which still savours vestiges of the British Raj. In tune with her celebrated

Simla: a hill-station for dreamers



Simla under the snows.

greatness, Simla graciously accepts tourists both flippant and sensitive.

How shall I describe it for you, this hill station enriched by more than a century of pomp and pageantry...? Through the stiff pages of official history or trite guide books...? Or perhaps a nostalgic combination that is more intimate...? At every step in this hill station of destiny loiter eloquent ghosts from the imperial past.

This languorous afternoon, they present a picture of pastoral tranquility. Yet here, in the years 1804-1815 were fought some of the fiercest battles which marked the rise of Simla. The local hill chieftains, the Sikhs, and later, the British were arrayed against hardy Gurkhas from the kingdom of Nepal.

Strides

Towards the beginning of the last century, it has been documented, Simla was a small obscure village nestled amidst splendid forests — the abode of the Himalayan Goddess Shama, a synonym for Kali.

An image of the powerful goddess still exists in Simla. It is widely believed that Simla derives its name from Shama. Over a hundred and sixty odd eventful years, it has changed its name Shama to Simla.

Once established, Simla made rapid strides, for in 1831, Victor Jacquemont, the French traveller, described Simla as "the resort of the rich, the idle and the

invalid."

Today, Simla's Mall, where people promenaded in yesteryears "to eat air," has a sizeable number of shops stuffed with goods — crafts shops, emporia, musty bookshops, coffee houses, video game parlours, travel agents, chemists, department stores, banks, restaurants, canned fruit juice and soft-ice cream joints.

There are bars but not that many drinkers. The hills are the first pleasure. While shops line one side of the mall, patches of wild flowers and wind hustled ferns frame municipality exhortations on the facing hillside: "Do not spit." "Keep Simla clean." Sweepers with long handled brooms swoop down on loitering wrappers and ice cream cups that careless tourists litter about on the mall before the breeze can whisk them away.

A sense of freedom and an impression of tidiness have formed a comfortable partnership on the mall.

Fastidious

With the exception of the Chinese shoemakers — Fookh Chong and Sons, Ta Tung and Co, Hugh and Sons — the well stocked shops are run mainly by Punjabis and the hillmen of Himachal. As fastidious as their window displays, shopkeepers scrupulously keep personal advantage in the background. Their inward prayer: "May those we welcome come again, may those who buy from us be glad."

But Simla, however special, is part of a world where an additional price must be paid for everything. In Simla, as in many other resorts, it takes the form of luxury tax and tourist rates. But, regulated by the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation, and seen through the eyes of Simla residents, approximately 20 per cent of whom are dependent on the tourist trade, the price are fair enough.

Permanent

There is, true, Kennedy House, Simla's first permanent house built by Major Kennedy, the political agent in 1819. In Kennedy House are now located the offices of the Himachal Pradesh Government. Amongst so much that is striking, it is difficult to choose. There is, for example, the house of A.O. Hume, the founder of the Indian Congress and that of Madame Blavatsky who outraged many with her ideas. The fascination of these old buildings — infinitely more impressive than later additions — is as strong as ever.

The imposing Viceregal Lodge is now inhabited by scholars of the prestigious Institute of Research and Advanced Studies. Old-timers remember a gun that stood near Viceregal Lodge and was fired daily at noon and on other unannounced occasions. Its unexpected salutes caused many a dignified rider to make a precipitous, involuntary descent from his horse. And so the gun was dismantled.

Mahatma Gandhi walked at Summer Hill and in the woods behind Viceregal Lodge. Mohammed Ali Jinnah and his pretty wife Ruti stopped to admire wild flowers. Earlier in 1904, Lord Curzon created a sensation when, long before the advent of buses, he introduced India's longest "toy" train to Simla. Today, four times a day, the charming toy train chugs out of Simla, carrying tourists round green hills, across valleys, through 103 tunnels to Kalka, 24 kilometres from Chandigarh.

Dwell

Or does one dwell on Amrita Shergill and Malcolm Muggeridge for whom love bloomed as they tramped hand in hand across these hills. Or the Mountbattens who often graced the

mall or Nehru's love for the mountains round Simla...? Or turn to beautiful Annandale who landed the helicopters of Prime Minister Bhutto of Pakistan and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi...? Poignancy and nostalgia are ever ready in Simla to escort you on a memorable round of discovery.

But tread softly, lest you miss savoury details, for the grand past and a gay present often merge into each other imperceptibly. The elegant, red roofed Wild Flower Hall that the imperious Lord Kitchener built between the pines near Kufri offer a perfect antidote to a static life.

Revel

Under a pale blue winter sky, with sparkles of sunlight on the high snows, skiers revel ecstatically in the grandeur of their environment. Dozens of skiers send the snow flying at Kufri during the Winter Sports Festival and the Carnival held in the first week of February.

After an exciting day on the slopes, it is the custom to repair to the legendary Wild Flower Hall — haunting in its beauty and haunted still, the locals whisper, by the moustachioed ghost of Kitchener Sahib. There, round a blazing fire, winter sports enthusiasts sip spiced punch as they exchange stories of thrills and spills, of snow ball fights they witnessed on the Ridge at Simla, or ice-skating feats at the rink below Circuit Road.

Splash

When the snows have melted and red rhododendron trees splash the mountainside with colour, Simla, as in decades gone by, becomes a titillating centre for the ambitious, for those with social aspirations, for intrigues, a haven for lovers of freedom, seekers of beauty, dreamers.

As our Dornier lifted into the air, a stray, saucy cloud roamed the skies while golden sunlight saturated jade green mountains and the valleys below. Back in Simla, the harmonious intermingling of a glorious past and a vivacious present will be leading visitors into a veritable Aladdin's cave of delight. And mountain winds will sing among the blue pines all through the long, cool Simla summer....

Violence and terrorism have no place ...

steps towards disarmament but has contributed to the resolution of the conflict. The Geneva agreement, the Iran-Iraq war, the agreement securing the independence of Namibia and the prospects of forward movement on the Kampuchean and the Palestinian issues have been positive developments.

The processes of regional co-operation within the framework of SAARC have continued, steadily and people to people contacts within the region have begun to expand.

Progress, in order to be real, needs another condition precedent also, namely that of a peaceful, international and regional environment.

A happy development during the last year has been the improvement in the international environment. The emerging détente between the Soviet Union and the United States of America following the INF Treaty has not only raised the expectation of further major

of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement of July 1987 and several significant developments have taken place recently. A provisional government has been set up in the north-east of Sri Lanka which is working towards normalisation. The Prime Minister's visit to China in December 1988 was an event that marked a new and decisive phase in India-China relations. It has opened up prospects for the normalisation of our relationship with China which will be a major contribution to peace and co-operation in Asia and the world.

Agreement

The decision to draw up a regional perspective plan — "SAARC 2000" — will help focus attention on problems common to the region. The dialogue with the newly-elected democratic government of Pakistan that has been initiated by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during his visit to Islamabad opens up the prospects of an improved relationship between our two countries. India will make all possible efforts to promote speedy normalisation of relations with Pakistan.

There has been continued progress in the implementation

It is our hope that a peaceful solution to problems facing Afghanistan would be found through strict observance of the Geneva accords by all parties. These developments augur well for strengthening the forces of peace in the world so that its resources may be released for development and prosperity.

Contacts

As we watch the tricolour go up today, may all of us hold our hands high with pride and confidence in a better and brighter future.

Jai Hind.
Message of the President of India.

with ...

(Continued from Page 7)
beloved first Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru.

These memorable occasions provided us all with a rare opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the goals enshrined in our Constitution and to express our gratitude for the stability of the nation and to strengthen afresh our commitment to democracy and democratic values.

As it happens in the life of an individual, a nation also experiences a variety of events which tend to put to test its people's ability to stand up to the challenges.

Like the past, our people have clearly demonstrated their determination to grapple with the challenges, and ensure a secure environment for their country.

We all know that a strong healthy economy is the basic ingredient of any nation's strength. In our determination to ensure realisation of this objective, we have been making concerted efforts to achieve greater modernization of agriculture and industry with broader scientific and high-tech back up.

It has been the government's endeavour that appropriate openings are available to our nationals living in India or abroad, to secure increasing participation in the nation's efforts to benefit from the aspired advancement in the spheres of science, technology and economic development.

Non-alignment has consistently been the hallmark of our foreign policy besides the endeavours to evolve deeper co-operation amongst the countries of the Third World.

It is heartening that these principles are also shared by the friendly State of Kuwait. Our principled support for the Arab cause and Palestinians has been universally acclaimed by all. Contacts between India and Kuwait go back to the hoary past when our peoples indulged in trade and cultural exchanges.

These contacts between our two countries at all levels have ever since been flourishing in all walks of life. I am confident that these relations will continue to further grow to the mutual benefit of both our peoples.

And finally, once again, while greeting our people on this joyous occasion, I take this opportunity to wish them all the best for a bright and happy future.

Jai Hind.
Message of N.N. Jha, the Indian ambassador to Kuwait.

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Films harp on secular principles

Indian cinema takes up the national theme

In spite of their many faults, Indian films, by and large have always harped on communal harmony, national integration, patriotism and secular principles upheld by the Indian constitution. Firoze Rangoonwalla reports on films past and present.

IT'S Republic Day celebrations in India again, marking the significant date, January 26, when the country adopted its new constitution and became a democratic republic. The day exhorts us once again to dedicate ourselves to the ideals of national integration and liberty. And the mass media are doing their bit in their own way.

One of the most popular social service films being shown frequently on TV uses film stars and other celebrities to convey the message, melodiously sung by Pt. Bhimsen Joshi and another veteran Dr Balamurali Krishna.

This short film (about three minutes) made by an advertising agency for the social welfare body Lok Seva Sanchar Parishad uses the title lyric *Mile Sur Mera Tumhara*, crooned jointly by the melody queen Lata Mangeshkar. The words carry home the idea that Indians of different provinces and communities can live in harmony by adjusting their wave-lengths.

Lip-movements

Amitabh Bachchan, Jeetendra, Mithun, Shabana Azmi, Tanuja, Hema Malini, Waheeda Rahman, Sharmila Tagore and some VIPs from other fields appear and lend their lip-movements to the song.

It looks very much like the film on "Spread the Light of Freedom," where star names from cinema, TV, cricket, tennis, painting, classical music, etc. join a marathon run, during which each took over the torch from the



B.M. Vyasa as Mahatma Gandhi in the film 26th January.

other, ending on an orchestrated version of the national anthem.

Both the films have also been criticised for presenting too pretty a picture of India, by highlighting only the beautiful monuments, (like the Taj Mahal or the Qutub Minar) and other beautiful places, while suppressing the squalor and the ugly truths. One supposes that films meant to convey hopes for the future cannot go on dwelling on poverty, filth and suffering. Well at least, the music and the visuals are a soothing relief for jaded nerves. Perhaps the items are directed to win over the jet-set in the cities, and inspire the vast majority of rural areas.

Languages

In the second film, there is only music of a rousing, marching type, merging into the national song. But in the first, the Hindi song is kept so simple that it is easily dubbed in all the thirteen languages, recognised by the constitution. Earlier, the general



Sridevi, India's reigning movie queen holds aloft the national flag in her new film Farishtae.

national spirit for children and youth was symbolised by the song *Hum Hoge Kaamyab Ek Din*. It is sung in rallies, processions and educational institutions. It has also been shown on TV and used for films. Some like *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron* put it in a context of satire which seemed to say that we would never succeed.

Communal harmony

Films of V. Shantaram, Hrishikesh Mukherjee or Satyen Bose have carried songs that are still used for various developmental and devotional activities on suitable occasions. *Al Maalik Tere Bande Hum* from Do Aankhen Bara Haath and *Humko Aisi Shakti Dena* from Gaddi have been used like common prayer songs. *Insaaf ki Dagar pe Bachchon Dikhaao Chalke* and *Is Desh ko Rakha Mere Bachchon Sambhale* have been used as morale-boosters for children, the future citizens of the country. In the past, Ramesh Saigal had made a film called '26th January' with

B.M. Vyasa playing Mahatma Gandhi.

Despite all their faults, Indian films, by and large have always harped on communal harmony, national integration, patriotism and secularism. Especially, the secular principles upheld by the constitution are often propagated in Hindi films, even of the mass box-office type.

It covers the respect and tolerance for all religious faiths, the uplift of underprivileged and untouchables and the free mixing among people of different creeds. That way, the film industry itself stands as a model of a secular little world. Hindus, Muslims and Christians and those from the minorities work in its different departments without ever showing any difference. This is a record, because people in creative fields are all the more in need of similar thinking and beliefs.

In films too members of one faith have created the most

fervent works for others. For example the best *bhajans* (holy Hindu songs) have been tuned by composers like Naushad and the most devout mythologicals have been directed by Parsis like Homi Wadia. Muslim producers have promoted Hindu directors or writers and vice versa. Muslim script and dialogue writers have done the paperwork for Hindu epics.

Even now, Dr Rahi Masoom Raza is writing the TV serial *Mahabharat* and Gulzar, a Sikh, is playing Mirza Ghalib a serialised biography of a Urdu poet.

On screen, there are countless examples where friendship and love are shown going above the barriers of caste or creed. Muslim characters sacrifice their life for the sake of Hindu friends. In fact, it has almost become a formula to show a Muslim dying for some good cause, even in art films like *Mirch Masala*.

Appeal

Though this sometimes becomes simplistic and naive, yet the mass cinema with its appeal to wider audiences could find its influence among the most unexpected people and places.

The spirit is being reflected in current and forthcoming films. In Sattee Shourie's *Farishtae* Sridevi holds aloft the national flag, with a warning to the villains, who dress and behave like alien rulers. This includes Sadasiv Amrapurkar. The film is directed by Anil Sharma.

In Manoj Kumar's *Dehswasi* which is being directed by his brother Rajiv Goswami, a slice of rural India is shown as the country's major reality. ("India lives in its villages," said Mahatma Gandhi once). The rustic characters are played by Hema Malini, Poonam Dhillon, Mandakini and director Rajiv as well as producer Manoj, Mahesh Bhatt makes a guest appearance as a Westernised Indian.

Flame

Manoj has always kept alive the patriotic flame in his films, even though they tend to become gimmicky and commercial. His last big hit *Krant* was an anti-British revolt by Indians. Amitabh Bachchan fought against the Portuguese and British, in films like *Pokar* and *Mard* though they were more like mock fights. Now Jaleel Akhtar has made *Goonj* against the backdrop of Goa with Kumar, Jeetendra and Jui Chawla. The Malayali Malayalam film 1921 portrays the Muslim Mopla rebellion against the British who were supporting the Hindu landlords.

Also in the making are films like *Bharat ke Lal*, *Desh ke Dushman*, *Dharti ki Kasam*, *Id Mubarak*, *Karna Kasam*, *Maazi Mera Desh ki*, *Azad Desh ke Ghulam*, *Gaddar*, etc., which will keep alive the spirit, even though they may not be attractive enough for the box-office.

Ideals

Some are also anti-establishment films which try to say that the high ideals on which the republic was constituted have not been fulfilled. In regional films, some good biographers of great leaders keep coming up which indirectly stress the values of democracy, brotherhood and peace.

As for documentaries, there is no shortage at all, the latest being *India, a Tryst with Freedom*, which has won a big TV award in the USA.

IIT Madras a home for innovative engineering

(Continued from Page 10)

programmes.

There is a Centre for Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research set up in 1973 — the first of its kind in the country — providing a vital link between the Institute and the Industry. This Centre makes IITM's facilities available to other educational and industrial organisations as well as expose its faculty to the contemporary problems of the industry.

Collaboration

The Centre has taken up several sponsored research projects and developed more than 20 products and patented them for commercial exploitation. Products fabricated range from tiny instrument gears to large size dies for rocket moulds. The Materials Science Research Centre at IITM is updating research on super conductivity and has come up with substitute compounds with super conducting properties.

The Institute continues its collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany through exchange programmes and collaborative research projects.



Manoj Kumar's 'Dehswasi' has Om Shivpuri, Mandakini, Rajiv and Poonam. It is a rural saga with much patriotic zeal and fervour

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

India to host ASTA International Conference

THE travel industry in India is gearing itself to make the coming American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) International Conference in Delhi in April 1989 a tourism event of the year. ASTA is the world's largest body of travel agents and an ASTA meet brings in its wake significant growth in tourist arrivals in the host country.

It is also the first time that ASTA International is being held in South Asia. And, for India it could not have come at a more appropriate time; the country is on the threshold of a take-off in tourism.

Incentives from government and greater efforts by industry are well reflected in the conference theme "India: Destination of the 90s." Adopting a theme around the host country's tourism efforts is a special gesture from ASTA, say Avinash Anand, president ASTA (India). He says a very high-powered host committee, headed by no less a person than the Director General — Tourism, B.K. Goswami, is masterminding arrangements for the conference, while several industry leaders head sub-committees on accommodation, publicity, PR, and post conference tours. "We are determined," he says, "that the delegates will have an experience in India they have never had anywhere else."

Effort

Requests have gone out to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to inaugurate the ASTA International Conference. The effort has gone into drawing up the conference programme in such a way that, while delegates have plenty of time to see the sights, they can also experience the rich cultural heritage of India. Delegates would get a glimpse of India's rich cultural heritage through the invocation presented by the famous Anand-Shankar troupe. Golf and tennis tournaments too are being arranged. A very wide choice of 30 post conference tours is being offered, including adventure travel, covering a wide variety of the attractions of India.

ASTA International is usually attended by about 700 delegates from the US. The president expects at least a thousand delegates. "Certainly, that is our target and we are confident of achieving it," he says.

Bid

India started bidding for ASTA International some eight years ago. Its bid was accepted for the 1986 session, but the venue was shifted to Mexico, to help that country live over the ravages of the previous year's earthquake. Joe Stone, several times ASTA president, who headed the inspection team that was to confirm the bid for 1989, said that ASTA had missed out on something in India earlier. Asked if India could also look forward to playing host to ASTA World Congress, Stone quipped, "Now that ASTA International is coming to India, can ASTA World Congress be far behind?"

Air technology has raced ahead too fast: study

LONDON, Jan 25, (Reuters): Growing demands on the airline industry to produce more advanced technology and human inability to keep up with the developments are causes of an increase in air accidents and faults, a leading aviation journal said.

Flight International magazine said in an editorial that pressure on the industry was directly or indirectly to blame for all the safety alarms of the past few weeks.

Checks made after the crash of a Boeing 737 which killed 44 people in central England on Jan 8 revealed crossed wires in the fire extinguisher systems of some Boeing planes.

Loss

Other emergencies included the loss of an entire engine last week from a Boeing 737 immediately after take-off from Chicago.

"There is something ... common to all these problems — the pressure of modern airline operations, which is, directly or indirectly, responsible for all these failures," the magazine said.

Relentless passenger growth put pressure on manufacturers to produce more planes faster and to higher standards, it added. Operators' fleets were being worked harder than ever before by fewer people and with fewer hours of maintenance and recuperation.

Commercial banks continue their gradual recovery

Gulf economic indicators poised for growth

THE economic indicators of the various Gulf countries attest to the growing perception that the consolidation process initiated four years ago aimed at positioning the economies of the Gulf on a more sustainable growth path has started to bear fruit according to Henry T. Azzam, chief economist of the Gulf International Bank (GIB).

He said the region's external sectors are still hampered by adverse developments in the world oil market, the non-oil sectors are moving ahead. The adjustment efforts of various Gulf governments aimed at narrowing fiscal deficits through rationalising public expenditures, mobilising domestic resources and encouraging a larger private sector participation helped maintain the uptrend in domestic activities in 1988.

The ceasefire between Iran and Iraq and the recent OPEC agreement aimed at reducing

excess supply conditions in the world oil market gave a boost to the overall level of confidence in the region.

Assam said these developments fostered as well the recent uptrend in domestic activities. Indicators pointing in this direction include higher stock prices in various Gulf countries, the gradual recovery of real estate markets, the noticeable improvement in commerce and retail sales activities and higher commercial bank profits.

Loans The settlement of most non-performing bank loans and the pick up in domestic demand contributed to a general improvement in banking activities.

Gulf commercial banks continued their gradual recovery from the lows of the past three years with a renewed surge in earnings recorded in the first half of 1988. Conservatism, cost cut-

ting and strong focus on off-balance sheet operations have been the major themes of Gulf banking during 1988.

Lending opportunities even though still generally suppressed recorded some improvement on the year before especially in the commerce, trade and personal sectors.

Recovery The recovery in domestic demand was achieved within a framework of monetary and price stability. Money supply which has been declining since 1984 in most Gulf countries recorded positive growth in 1987-1988, albeit at rates commensurate with the fledgling economic activities. Inflation as measured by the consumer price indices remained subdued in 1988, reflecting continued stability in such domestic factors as wages, rents and government subsidies on basic goods and services.

Prices The drop in average oil prices by around 22 per cent in 1988 was the major negative factor hindering overall economic growth in the region. The economists said the contribution of the oil sectors to the GDP of the respective Gulf countries is still quite sizeable.

However, the decline in oil prices did not have the same impact on all the Gulf countries with the UAE, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia adjusting upwards their production levels offsetting to a large extent the drop in prices.

On the external front, the improvement in the GCC countries' current account position was noticeable in 1987 compared

to 1986. The trade balance may have deteriorated in 1988 following the decline in oil exports (oil sector exports account for more than 85 per cent of total exports in the Gulf region).

However, the maintenance of adjustment efforts aimed at restraining imports and the projected improvement in the services and transfers accounts are believed to have made up for most of the drop in oil exports.

Activities

All in all 1988 may not have been a bad year. A gradual resumption of normal business activities has been recorded, especially in the fourth quarter, and the region is now positioned to benefit from positive developments in the oil market and an expected surge in reconstruction activities in Iran and Iraq. Favourable prospects for resumption of growth therefore, exist for 1989.

Growing farm sector will give new fillip to economy

India keen to promote NRI investments

By M.C. Bose

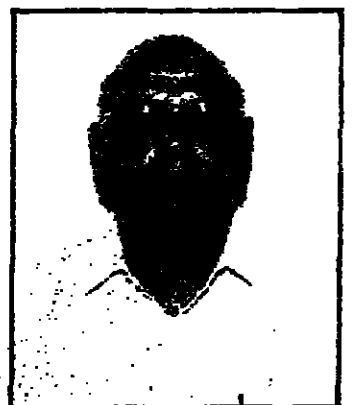
DR SHARMA, an eminent economist and industrial consultant with the Arab Planning Institute and subsequently an adviser to KFCIC and presently director of Arab-Gulf Investment Co (P) Ltd. in addressing the NRI Investors Forum in Kuwait drew a rosy picture of the Indian economy.

He believed the economy is poised to grow at about 8 per cent in 1988-1989. Despite the drought last year, the agricultural output is to touch 100 million tons. With genetic research being pushed in the field of agriculture a second green revolution is being unleashed. Agro-based industries and linked sectors are likely to be the immediate beneficiaries, he said.

Tourism Sharma added that India is rightly emphasising the farm sector and the prosperity in this sector is bound to reflect in the entire economy.

He said the government has hired-purchase facilities by companies for consumers to purchase consumables, the issue of credit facilities by banks are all indications of expanding growth, Sharma said. He added that if only the infrastructure could be induced to keep pace with the requirements of the economy, growth would be faster.

Continuing, he said that in the



Dr S.L. Sharma

above scenario, the government has rightly or wrongly decided on some sectors as being thrust areas. To name, agriculture and particularly the food processing, tourism and hotel, hi-tech-electronics, textiles etc., investment policies are geared to make them as the planned engines of growth licensing and incentives are all being linked accordingly.

Sharma asked, "In this situation, what are the NRI's role and responsibilities?" He said NRIs have three major interests — firstly to have a home and therefore the construction sector is of primary importance to the NRIs.

However, he added, the interests are dispersed over towns and villages and it is difficult to have a uniform policy for NRIs. Hence, he recommended that this aspect be best left to individuals. Secondly, security of their savings. With stable returns

the NRI deposits are being generously promoted by the Indian banks and other financial institutions such as the Unit Trust and capital funds.

Here the interest rates being up to 13.5 per cent with income-tax waiver the return to NRIs will be about 17-18 per cent. "No project could promise more than this as dividends, at least in the initial years," Sharma said.

Investments

Thirdly, there are those who wish to sit in the entrepreneurial seat and make direct investments in projects. Unfortunately, Sharma said that no existing industrialist is inclined to allow NRI inroads into his established venture. Under such a situation, these NRIs have to be satisfied with only insignificant portfolio investments. Becoming promoters themselves, cannot be done through remote control and the NRIs concerned must be physically present in India.

While the government of India is keen to promote NRI investments, problems are plenty at the implementation levels, Sharma said. The problems and bottlenecks boggle the minds of both the government and the NRIs.

Services

In this context Sharma pointed out the confusing scene of so many institutions duplicating their services and being tossed about from one end to the other. Sharma suggested that it was time for a wholesale restructuring of administration to face new

challenges. Mere administrative reforms will not suffice. Over-expansion of the government (machinery) must be controlled with productivity and efficiency being the criteria of continuity in service.

He also suggested that NRIs should organise think-tanks at the state levels to pin-point difficulties and recommend solutions to a forum. After evaluating and screening the forum could take up the issues with the government of India or the states.

Sharma proposed that for the NRIs wanting to invest in India and be considered for expeditious treatment special banking procedures be adopted. Another suggestion was to organise small cells of NRIs who have already returned to India to establish contacts with the forum so that this cell helps in extending advice and assistance to the NRIs still abroad. Their experience and help will be valuable as they have found their feet back home, Sharma said.

In the opinion of Sharma, NRIs have not made any significant impression so far in the field of direct investments and it would require convincing the government of India to make further moves in this direction. However, what the forum should now concentrate on are the pitfalls and hardships at the micro-levels. Sharma added: "Let the forum turn its mind to these in the coming months."

Oil services giant to sell its defence systems operations

NEW YORK, Jan 25, (UPI): French-controlled oil services giant Schlumberger Ltd. yesterday announced plans to sell its defence systems operations, Fairchild Weston Systems.

"We have annual re-evaluations and planning sessions, and this is part of normal corporate planning," said S.T. McCormick, spokesman for Schlumberger in New York, where the company's US operations are based.

The company said the decision to sell its defence operations is in line with Schlumberger's "strategy to refocus on its principal product lines." McCormick said the company would focus on its oilfield services and utility metering businesses.

Businesses He said, however, that selling Fairchild Weston would not necessitate a restructuring of the remaining businesses. Fairchild Weston has facilities in New York, Florida, Pennsylvania and in Britain and France. It employs a total of about 3,500 people.

Schlumberger had some small defence businesses a decade ago when it bought Fairchild Systems. All of the defence operations then were grouped together as Fairchild Weston.

McCormick said it was too early to speculate on the price Fairchild Weston might fetch.

World Business Summary

Moscow to open trade office in Seoul in March

SEOUL, Jan 25, (UPI): Vladimir Golanov, vice president of the Soviet Federal Chamber of Commerce, met South Korean officials yesterday to discuss details for the opening of a Soviet trade office in Seoul in March. Golanov visited the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) with which the Soviet Chamber of Commerce signed an agreement on Dec 2 last year to exchange trade offices. Golanov and KOTRA president Lee Sun-Ki discussed in detail various questions related to the opening and operation of the trade offices to be stationed in each other's capitals, officials said. The Soviet Federal Chamber of Commerce and KOTRA will sign an agreement to mutually guarantee security for members of the planned trade offices in their respective countries, and arrange for tax exemptions for goods brought in or locally purchased by them. The agreement will also provide that the two parties help each other to facilitate the opening of the proposed offices and render assistance in recruiting local employees, the officials added. Meanwhile, the national circulation daily Dong-A Ilbo said quoting government officials that Seoul authorities had proposed to Golanov to upgrade the trade offices to be semi-official diplomatic channels. The Soviets, however, take the stand that the trade offices be opened based on the existing accord and the two sides allow it to handle consular functions such as issuing visas for visitors on business trips, the paper said.

US aids Turkey debt servicing

ANKARA, Jan 25, (Reuters): The United States today gave Turkey a \$60 million economic grant for 1989, part of increasing assistance to its NATO ally. The money would go towards Turkey's \$7.3 billion debt servicing bill in 1989, officials said. The economic support funds were a tranche of \$563.4 million of US aid planned for Turkey in the 1989 fiscal year, up from \$525.3 million in 1988. The \$60 million ESF grant for 1989 was nearly double a \$32 million ESF grant last year. "The United States demonstrates by this transfer its confidence in, and support for, Turkey's continuing economic growth and development," US Ambassador Robert Strauss-Hupe said at a signing ceremony in Ankara. Turkey's total non-military foreign debt fell in 1988 to \$36.4 billion at the end of October last year, down from \$38.3 billion at the end of 1987. After Israel and Egypt, Turkey is the third largest recipient of US aid. "Overall, 84 per cent of the aid will be in the form of a grant in 1989, higher than last year. It gets better all the time," said one US official. The remainder of the 1989 aid is earmarked for military purposes, with \$500 million in direct aid and \$3.4 million for education and training. Several thousands US troops serve in Turkey, which has the second largest NATO army after the United States and watches a third of the alliance's frontier with Warsaw Pact forces.

Attention Non-Resident Indians Investment opportunities in India

Mr S.M. Parande,
executive director, SBI Capital Markets Ltd., Bombay and
Mr Madhukar Gupta,
resident director, Indian Investment Centre, Abu Dhabi, are available in
Hotel Sheraton
from 27-1-89 to 30-1-89 for discussions.
All those interested may contact them at the hotel.
SBI Capital Markets

AUCTION SALE

The Petrochemical Industries Company (KSC) intends to sell its used Salt & Chlorine Plants mentioned below located at Shuwaikh, Kuwait by a Sealed Envelope Auction:

1. Salt Plant I
2. Salt Plant II
3. Cell Plant I
4. Cell Plant II
5. Brine Plant
6. Liquefaction Plant II
7. HCL Plant
8. Caustic Fusion Plant
9. Effluent Treatment Plant
10. Spare Parts for the above plants

— Sale shall be in accordance with the conditions and specifications of the Auction Document, which can be obtained from Manager, Financial Dept. — Petrochemical Industries Company — P.O. Box (9116) Ahmadi — 61002 — Ahmadi — Kuwait — Tel. No.: 3261830, during official working hours from 08:00 am to 1:00 pm daily except on Thursdays and Fridays, with effect from Sunday, 22/1/1989, against a payment of KD.50/- (Kuwaiti Dinars Fifty only) or its equivalent in United States dollars.

— Those residing outside Kuwait, may purchase the documents through their local agents or by requesting the same by a letter by enclosing the above amount by a certified bank cheque sent to the above address. The company shall send the documents by Registered Mail — Acknowledgement Due — to their address.

— Participants are allowed to visit the subject Plants Site to investigate with effect from 1st Feb. 1989 during working hours as mentioned above and until the last date set for submission of Bids (on Thursday 7/3/1989).

— Participants may bid to purchase all of the Plants or any complete unit thereof according to the Auction Document Provisions.

— For further details, please contact Telephone No.: 3261590 or 3261158.

Moroccan finance minister works for people's capitalism

RABAT, Jan 25, (Reuters): Moroccan Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada said today he planned to dismantle exchange controls and create "people's capitalism" in the next stage of a drive towards an open, competitive economy.

"I think in three to four years, there will be no more foreign currency controls in Morocco," he told Reuters in an interview. "It is not by foreign currency controls we will attract hard currency."

Berrada — an outspoken advocate of a World Bank-sponsored adjustment programme — maintained the country had turned the corner since a 1983 debt crisis.

Growth He pointed to economic growth last year of eight per cent and inflation of only 2.5 per cent — one of the lowest rates in the Third World.

A combined liberalisation and austerity package had led to a big improvement in export ability and resulted in a surplus on current account last year of \$12

million, the first for 13 years.

Berrada stressed that much of the economy had already been freed of controls and said the process would be speeded up now Morocco was generating foreign exchange reserves.

"We will this year begin to accumulate foreign exchange earnings which will strengthen our position and allow us to continue in this policy," he said.

Challenges

He said challenges ahead included the need to cut bureaucracy and involve more people in the capitalist system through privatising state-run companies.

"Privatisation will play a major role in economic growth by increasing the private sector, and by creating a society of individual capitalism, a people's capitalism," he said.

He said he wanted to create an economy which included many small savers and shareholders, adding that his policies were changing the structure of society. Berrada said he planned an

international financial centre in Casablanca — the country's business capital — where banks could undertake offshore banking activities "without being in an offshore zone."

Debt

The World Bank's latest list of most heavily indebted Third World nations ranks Morocco eighth.

But the minister disputed World Bank figures which put his country's end-1987 debt at \$22 billion. He said it was between 18 and 19 billion, but only some three billion of it was with private creditors.

"The structure of our debt is extremely well-balanced. A country which is in debt with commercial banks and which accepts a difficult rescheduling of its debt, of which some 90 per cent is private, is very seriously indebted," he said.

"What is important is not the overall volume but the structure. We are among the countries least indebted, it all depends on what (the debt) includes," he argued.

Shultz urges easing Soviet trade restrictions

NEW YORK, Jan 25, (Reuters): In his last full day in office, former Secretary of State George Shultz urged Moscow should be rewarded for a timely withdrawal from Afghanistan with an easing of trade restrictions imposed when Soviet troops marched into the country, the New York Times reported today.

The newspaper said the recommendation was contained in a classified letter from Shultz to Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, written on Jan 19.

Restrictions Citing unnamed officials who had seen the letter, the report said Shultz argued that since the restrictions were tied to the Soviet invasion they should be lifted once the withdrawal was completed.

Under a UN-mediated accord, all Soviet troops are scheduled to leave Afghanistan by Feb 15.

The letter laid out Shultz' arguments in favour of eased trade controls and noted the problem would be one of the first to face the new Bush administration, the Times said.

The report said the Defence

Department opposed a change in US trade policy toward Moscow.

The proposed change would still give Washington veto power over any transaction involving advanced technology, with sales decided on a case-by-case basis, it said.

Meanwhile, State Department said any move to grant US trade preferences and credits to the Soviet Union would probably hinge on whether Moscow sustained recent progress on immigration.

Talk of easing American trade restrictions has been revived recently due to the greatly increased flow of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union and commitments by Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev to change Soviet laws to institutionalise protections for human rights.

But the new Bush administration has signalled a clear intent to go slow in its relations with the Soviet Union with Secretary of State James Baker telling Congress last week: "I don't think we should be engaged in a headlong rush" to provide subsidised loans and trade credits.

New budget makes Japan world's top aid giver

TOKYO, Jan 25, (AP): The cabinet adopted a new budget today that makes Japan the world's top giver of economic foreign aid, increase the nation's defence spending and boost its share of the cost of keeping US troops in Japan.

The total budget raises government spending by 6.6 per cent — the largest amount in eight years — to 60.41 trillion yen (\$471.95 billion). The government budget for fiscal 1988, which ends on March 31, was 56.70 trillion yen (\$441 billion).

In negotiations after the Finance Ministry unveiled the proposed budget last week, the Foreign Ministry and Defence Agency won increases in Japan's

foreign aid and defence spending, although the total spending amount was not changed.

A Foreign Ministry official said Japan's economic assistance to developing countries is likely to exceed \$11 billion in fiscal 1989, up from an estimated \$10 billion in fiscal 1988. That would make Japan the world's largest donor of economic foreign aid, based on estimates by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The United States actually spends more money overall on foreign aid, but most of its donations go to pay for weapons and other military equipment.

In the 1988 fiscal year, the United States spent \$13.6 billion

on foreign aid. Of that \$8.6 billion was for international security assistance, including direct military aid, and \$5 billion was for economic development and humanitarian assistance.

For the 1989 fiscal year, US estimates show it will spend slightly less than \$13 billion on foreign aid — \$7.7 billion for military security and \$5.2 billion for development and humanitarian aid.

Proposal

The Japanese government's budget proposal, which followed five days of negotiations between the Finance Ministry and other government bodies, is expected to go to parliament for approval on Jan 31.

Japan's Defence Agency, limited by law to defensive capabilities, will have a budget of 3.92 trillion yen (\$30.6 billion) in fiscal 1989, up 5.9 per cent from this year's 3.7 trillion yen (\$28.7 billion), said Toshinori Shigeie, director of the Foreign Ministry's National Security Affairs Division.

The increase will enable Japan to pay for the fourth year of a five-year programme to beef up the Asian country's defence capabilities, particularly its ability to defend its sea lanes, Shigeie said.

The United States has urged Tokyo to do more for its own defence, but military spending is controversial in Japan. Its con-

stitution renounces war and the use of force to settle international disputes.

Principally

"Japan clearly should increase its expenditures on international security, but those increases should be principally in economic assistance and in support of the costs of US forces in Japan," said a report recently published by a private bipartisan group in Washington.

Japan has agreed to shoulder a larger share of the costs of maintaining 64,000 US troops here. In fiscal 1989, it will spend 142.3 billion yen (\$1.11 billion), or about 75 per cent of the total cost, moving closer to its goal of carrying 100 per cent of the cost.

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)			LONDON (Beta Stocks)		
NAME	LAST	CHG	NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
ABBIE LIFE	306/0		2ND ALICE	700/0	796/0
ADT LTD	130/0		600 GROUP	118/0	120/0
ALD LYONS	469/0		A-AMER TS	389/0	395/0
AMSTRAD	165/0		A.S.W.HLD	405/0	405/0
ARVILL GP	183/0		AAS KENT	89/0	90/0
ASDA GP	140/0		AAN HLD	308/0	309/0
BAA	280/0		AARONSON	125/0	125/0
BAT	325/0		ADDISON	32/4	33/0
BAT IND	497/0		ADVEST	157/0	157/0
BAYCLAYS	439/0		ALEX WRIK	166/0	167/0
BASS	875/0		ALEXON	329/0	330/0
BEAZER	200/0		ALLD COLL	127/4	129/0
BEECHAMS	511/5		ALLD LR	256/0	258/0
BERISFORD	396/0		ALLD LON	132/0	132/0
BICC PLC	417/0		ALLD PLINT	66/0	66/0
BLUE ARMY	84/4		ALLIANCE	065/0	066/0
BLUE CIRC	466/0		AMBER DAY	41/4	42/0
BOC GP	453/0		AMEC	363/0	368/0
BOOTS CO	245/0		AMER TST	131/2	132/4
BPB IND	235/0		AMERSHAM	514/0	514/0
BR COM	233/0		AMT HLTHC	261/0	261/0
BR AIRWAY	181/0		ANGIA TV	220/0	219/0
BR AEROSP	485/0		ANSHACH	79/0	78/0
BR GAS RG	172/0		APPLYARD	421/0	422/0
BR LAND	341/0		APV PLC	137/0	138/0
B.P.P.	265/0		ASILEY LA	108/0	108/0
BR STEEL	69/0		AUS REE	218/0	219/0
BR TELCOM	269/0		AUS REE	373/0	375/0
BURMAN OH	520/0		ADD SEC	250/0	251/0
BURTON	197/0		AVDEL PLC	99/4	99/0
CABLEVIEW	397/0		AVESCO	118/0	118/0
CADBURYS	347/0		AVIS EUR	344/0	343/0
CALOR GRP	82/0		AVON RUBB	625/0	625/0
CLRN R T	720/0		B.WEMHILL	215/0	216/0
COOKSON	282/2		BAILL JAP	51/4	51/6
COURTAULD	291/0		BAILL SHI	88/0	88/0
DALGETY	330/0		BALFOUR	239/0	241/0
DIXONS	142/0		BANK IRE	253/0	255/0
ENG CHINA	486/0		BANKER IT	77/0	78/0
ENTER OIL	524/0		BARDON GP	152/0	152/0
FBI BACK	136/0		BART DEV	185/0	186/0
FERRANTI	102/0		BAYNES C	27/0	27/0
FISONS	65/0		BBA GROUP	171/0	173/0
GATEWAY	170/0		BEAR B-UT	1/0	1/0
GEN ACCID	905/0		BEAR BRAND	9/4	9/4
GEN ELEC	211/0		BEATTIE J	154/0	156/0
GLAXO	126/0		BEJAM GP	179/0	179/0
GRAMADA	337/0		BELHAVEN	50/0	51/0
GLOBE	155/0		BELLWAY	232/0	233/0
GLYNED	298/0		BEMLUX HD	65/0	65/0
GUARD RYL	390/0		BERKELEY	210/0	211/0
GUINNESS	367/0		BIRN GROUP	94/0	94/0
HARRISON A	157/0		BK OF SCO	95/4	96/0
HARRISON C	686/0		BLACK LE	13/2	13/0
HAKER SID	253/0		BRN GROUP	394/0	396/0
HILLSDON	101/0		BRNETT +F	124/0	124/0
ICI	095/0		BRNASE	222/0	223/0
			BUDDINGTH	165/0	166/0
			BODY SHOP	519/0	521/0

World Indices				
INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 300 ORD	1580.8	1580.7	1569.5	1455.3
FT 300 SHR	1092.9	1092.9	1084.0	1008.8
FT ALL SHR	1001.08	1001.08	993.14	926.59
FT GOV SEC	88.37	88.37	88.35	87.03
FT GOV NW	170.6	170.6	169.0	161.9
FT MINES F	611.32	611.32	610.64	565.31
FT OIL	1869.8	1869.8	1874.3	1725.4
FT JLD DLR	143.63	142.24	141.86	139.21
FT JLD STB	120.54	118.90	118.92	115.30
FT JLD LOC	128.44	127.38	127.31	123.40

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS PLUNGE ON RIGHTS ISSUE RUMOURS

LONDON, JAN 25, REUTER - EQUITIES PLUNGED IN LATE TRADING AND MARKET RUMOURS OF A SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS ISSUE TOMORROW, DEALERS SAID.

THE FTSE 100 CLOSED 2.1 LOWER AT 1,999.0 AFTER STANDING A NET 26.0 POINTS HIGHER AT 1,967.1 JUST AFTER THE OPENING.

DEALERS SAID SENTIMENT WAS ALSO HIT LATE IN THE SESSION BY MARKET TALK THAT P AND O HAD TRIED AND FAILED TO PLACE ITS 10 PCT STAKE IN CONSTRUCTION GROUP TAYLOR WOODROW. TAYLOR WOODROW SHARES WERE A NET 65P LOWER AT 583 WHILE P AND O SHED A NET 15P TO 597P.

SOME TRADERS SAID THE APPARENT FAILURE OF P AND O TO PLACE ITS TAYLOR WOODROW STAKE HAD A BIGGER IMPACT ON SENTIMENT THAN THE RUMOURS OF A RIGHTS ISSUE.

"WITH INSTITUTIONAL LIQUIDITY AS HIGH AS IT IS I CAN'T SEE THAT EVEN A HUGE RIGHTS ISSUE WOULD HAVE TOO MUCH IMPACT," SAID ONE TRADER. "BUT, IF P AND O CAN'T PLACE 10 PCT OF TAYLOR WOODROW AT A CHEAP PRICE... THAT'S BAD NEWS."

MARKET RUMOUR HELD THAT P AND O HAD TRIED TO PLACE ITS 10 PCT OF TAYLOR WOODROW, SOME 16 MLN SHARES, AT 60SP PER SHARE. P AND O BROKER BOARE GOVETT DECLINED TO COMMENT.

Precious Metals

LONDON, JAN 25, REUTER - GOLD BULLION TRADING WAS QUIET THIS AFTERNOON, WITH THE METAL DRIFTING LOWER AFTER MEETING STRONG RESISTANCE AT AROUND 405 DLRS AN OUNCE, DEALERS SAID.

IT WAS FIXED AT 404.20 DLRS, COMPARED WITH THE OPENING AND PREVIOUS CLOSING LEVELS OF 405.00/405.50 AND 406.50/407.00 DLRS, RESPECTIVELY. THE MORNING FIX WAS 404.75.

DEALERS SAID PRECIOUS METALS RETREATED FROM THEIR OPENING LEVELS WITH THE DOLLAR REMAINING STEADY. A LACK OF GENUINE BUYING INTEREST COULD SEE GOLD SLIP BACK TO TEST THE 400 DLR SUPPORT LEVEL, THEY SAID.

PLATINUM AND SILVER ALSO FELL IN LINE WITH GOLD, THEY ADDED.

London Money Market

LONDON, JAN 25, REUTER - MONEY RATES WERE LITTLE CHANGED AFTER AN UNEVENTFUL DAY AND DEALERS SAID THEY EXPECTED THE MARKET TO REMAIN QUIET UNTIL BRITISH TRADE FIGURES FOR DECEMBER WERE RELEASED ON FRIDAY.

"IT'S BEEN A QUIET DAY IN A PRETTY DULL MARKET," ONE DEALER SAID.

"WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT FRIDAY'S NUMBERS ARE LIKE." MOST INTERBANK RATES FROM TWO MONTHS TO ONE YEAR WERE 1/16 POINT EASIER FROM LAST NIGHT'S CLOSE AND UNCHANGED FROM THEIR OPENING LEVELS. THE KEY THREE MONTH INTERBANK RATE ENDED THE DAY AT 13-1/16 PCT, COMPARED WITH YESTERDAY'S 13-1/8 TO 1/16 PCT.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPG
DLR	1.7695/00	1.8415/20	6.2690/20	NOON
STG	1.7710/20	3.2595/2630	11.0920/1040	NOON
DMK	1.8379/8459	3.253/267	29.305/465	NOON
FFR	6.269/281	11.089/107	339.98/40.62	FIX
SFR	1.5655/1665	2.7693/7726	84.91 85.01	1300
HFL	2.0810	3.6820	112.89	33.17
ECU	1.13161	.639689	2.08590	7.09859
SDR	1.32760	0.745843	2.42314	8.25303
YEN	127.60/70			
SDR RATE	24/01/1988	OTHERS	25/01/1989	

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)			LONDON (Beta Stocks)		
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CALOR GRP	82/0		AVON RUBB	625/0	625/0
CLRN R T	720/0		B.WEMHILL	215/0	216/0
COOKSON	282/2		BAILL JAP	51/4	51/6
COURTAULD	291/0		BAILL SHI	88/0	88/0
DALGETY	330/0		BALFOUR	239/0	241/0
DIXONS	142/0		BANK IRE	253/0	255/0
ENG CHINA	486/0		BANKER IT	77/0	78/0
ENTER OIL	524/0		BARDON GP	152/0	152/0
FBI BACK	136/0		BART DEV	185/0	186/0
FERRANTI	102/0		BAYNES C	27/0	27/0
FISONS	65/0		BBA GROUP	171/0	173/0
GATEWAY	170/0		BEAR B-UT	1/0	1/0
GEN ACCID	905/0		BEAR BRAND	9/4	9/4
GEN ELEC	211/0		BEATTIE J	154/0	156/0
GLAXO	126/0		BEJAM GP	179/0	179/0
GRAMADA	337/0		BELHAVEN	50/0	51/0
GLOBE	155/0		BELLWAY	232/0	233/0
GLYNED	298/0		BEMLUX HD	65/0	65/0
GUARD RYL	390/0		BERKELEY	210/0	211/0
GUINNESS	367/0		BIRN GROUP	94/0	94/0
HARRISON A	157/0		BK OF SCO	95/4	96/0
HARRISON C	686/0		BLACK LE	13/2	13/0
HAKER SID	253/0		BRN GROUP	394/0	396/0
HILLSDON	101/0		BRNETT +F	124/0	124/0
ICI	095/0		BRNASE	222/0	223/0
			BUDDINGTH	165/0	166/0
			BODY SHOP	519/0	521/0

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
AUSTRALIA	297.9	297.3	296.5	290.3
AUSTRIA	246.6	245.6	243.2	238.8
BELGIUM	449.4	446.3	446.0	435.0
CANADA	385.2	386.2	388.5	367.1
DENMARK	557.5	558.2	541.3	518.9
FRANCE	466.1	460.7	464.1	442.7
GERMANY	209.1	207.1	208.7	207.9
HONG KONG	2167.4	2162.5	2169.0	2029.6
FINLAND	119.5	119.4	119.0	118.1
JAPAN	473.1	473.2	480.5	462.4
ITALY	1479.6	1467.3	1458.1	1420.5
NETHERLANDS	284.0	285.2	283.7	267.5
NEW ZEAL	92.5	91.0	91.7	86.6
NORWAY	656.1	660.7	662.5	576.8
SPAIN	657.2	642.3	640.7	604.8
SWEDEN	243.6	243.6	247.0	242.0
SWITZ	177.4	177.2	176.2	172.9
U.K.	589.5	584.5	582.2	546.1
U.S.A.	265.9	262.2	263.9	256.1
WORLD	509.6	502.2	502.3	494.4
E.A.F.E.	984.7	969.7	967.1	959.4

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For further details contact
Arab Times Advertising Department 4816326/7.

NEW YORK			NEW YORK		
NAME	OPEN	MID-DAY	NAME	OPEN	MID-DAY
A BSCH COM	32/5	32/3	GEN ELECT	50/4	50/2
ATLANTIC R	85/4	85/3	GEN HOST	9/6	9/6
AAR CORP	26/0	26/1	GEN HOSR	0	7/1
ABBOTT LAB	48/2	47/5	GEN INSTR	27/5	27/4
ACHE CLVD	9/6	9/7	GEN MILLS	54/0	54/0
ADV MICRO	8/5	8/5	GEN MOTORS	89/5	89/5
AEROF LAB	5/7	5/7	GEN SIGNAL	49/7	49/6
AETNA LIFE	48/2	48/2	GENCORP	17/4	17/2
ALBAMA 8-16	0	84/0	GENETECH	19/0	19/2
ALCAN ALUM	34/1	33/7	GENLINE PA	35/7	35/5
ALCO STAND	26/5	26/5	GEO PUT-80	0	77/0
AN CAP SEC	21/3	21/3	GEORGI-PAC	39/0	38/7
AN CYANAM	51/4	50/4	GIBB FI CL	1/1	1/1
AN FAMILY	14/0	14/0	GLOBE MAR	09	09
AN HON PRO	83/0	82/5	GOLDEN MUG	16/6	16/6
AN STANCO	0	77/7	GOODRICH	54/1	53/7
AN STORES	59/0	58/3	GOODYEAR	49/1	49/0
AN TEL-TEL	30/6	30/6	GRACE WR	27/7	27/7
ANOCO CORP	76/1	76/0	GRANGER	57/6	57/6
AMP INC	46/5	46/4	GREYHOUND	30/4	30/3
AMPCO PITT	0	14/2	GRIMMAR	20/1	20/1
AMR CORP	53/5	53/7	GULF RES-C	13/7	13/7
AMER GEN	33/0	33/2	GULF-WESTN	40/5	40/7
AMERADA RE	33/0	33/0	HALLIBURTON	28/7	29/0
ANTHEM ELE	9/4	9/5	HALLMOR	15/3	15

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 26-27, 1989

International Bond Highlights

LONDON: The province of Saskatchewan is issuing a 300 min Canadian dir Eurobond due Feb 23, 1994 paying 10-1/2 pct and priced at 101 pct, lead manager Wood Gundy Inc. said. (XLP 0833)

Paris: The Republic of Finland is launching a 500m French franc 7-3/4 pct Eurobond due 1996, fungible with an existing 400 min franc issue, lead manager Banque Indosuez said. (XKSE 1059)

Frankfurt: The terms of a new domestic German federal government bond will be set on Monday, the Bundesbank said. (XKLU 1450)

Tokyo: Tokyo Marine Insurance Co. Ltd is issuing a 50 min dir, four year, equity warrant Eurobond with an indicated coupon of 5-1/8 pct, Nomura International Ltd said. (XKGF 1043)

London: Deloitte Kretz Dore & Co. Ltd is issuing a 90 min dir, four year, equity warrant bond with an indicated coupon at 5-1/8 pct, Nomura International Ltd said. (XKGS 1044)

London: The coupon on the one billion dir, four year, equity warrant Eurobond for Mitsui and Co. Ltd has been set at 4-1/8 pct compared with the indicated level of 4-1/2 pct, lead manager Nomura International Ltd said. (XKHF 0812)

London: BFG Luxembourg SA is issuing a 50 min Australian dir, Eurobond due Feb 24, 1992 paying 15 pct and priced at 101-5/8, lead manager Bankers Trust International Ltd said. (XKSM 1101)

London: The amount of the exchangeable perpetual floating rate note for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia has been increased to 400 min dir from the initial 300 min, lead manager Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd said. (XKHP 0842)

London: National Westminster Bank PLC said its issue of variable rate notes had been increased to 300 min dir from the initial 200 min due to strong investor demand. (XKSG 1154)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 1331/8 13	13-1/8 1/16	13-1/16 1/32
FFY 5.30/50	5.65/75	5.80/90
PAR 4-3/8 1/2	8-1/2 5/8	8-9/16 11/16
ZUR 4-3/8 4-5/8	5-1/8 5-3/8	5-3/8 5-5/8
BRX 6.60	7-7/16 1/2	7-11/16 3/4
ROM 11-3/8 11-7/8	12-5/8 12-7/8	12-1/4 12-3/4
AMS 5.50/75	5.98/08	6.12/22
TOK 3.28/32 30/32	4.12/32 14/32	4.17/32 19/32
ECU 7.75 8.00	7.93 8.06	8.12 8.25

Interest Rates

Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	6-7/8	7-1/16
3 months	7-3/8	7-13/16
6 months	7-9/16	8-1/16
1 year	7-3/4	8-1/4

BOMBAY

	PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	74	74	76	NICO	565	585	595
				GNFC	47	47.75	48	MUKAND	88	89	92
ACC	311	316	323	GRASIM	84	87	87.50	AOCL	780	785	790
ASIA PAINT	215	214	223.75	GSFC	130	136.25	137.50	ORWAY	25	25.50	26
BAJAJ AUTO	398.75	397.50	410	RIND LEVER	70.50	71	71.50	PEICO	22	21	22
BAR. RAYON	295	295	290	RINDALCO	171.50	178	180	PFIZER	67	66	68
BOM. DYING	122	125	126	RINDCOCA	102.50	103.25	107.50	PRE. AUTO	43.50	44.50	46
BR. BOND	109	115	116.50	RINDMOTOR	28.15	28.25	28	RAYMOND	71	71.50	71
BSE INDEX	631.75			TIND ORG	42	44	44	RELIANCE	124.50	129	132
CENTURYSPG	1415	1425	1445	INDORAYON	81	83.50	83.50	SIEMENS	82	81	86
COLGATE	307.75	311.25	320	INDROL	282.50	287.50	297.50	SPIC	42.50	43.50	46
DEPAKFRY	36.50	36.50	37	TTC	45	44	44	STONWILL	228	235	240
EL. HOTEL	57	55	57.50	JKSYNTH	85.50	84.50	85	TATA PWR	340	352.50	358
EL. HOTEL	133.75	135	138.75	L AND T	116.50	118	118	TATACHEN	110	112	112.50
EL. HOTEL	21.50	22	23	NAHIDORA	82	85.50	88	TELCO	720	727.50	755
EL. HOTEL	81.25	82.50	81.25	MAHESHR	15.75	15.50	15.75	TISCO	1152	1157	1211
EL. HOTEL	36.50	36.50	36.50	NATHAN PL	59	57	60	VOLTAS	520	505	540

TOKYO

LAST	74.00	74.00	76.00	STOCK	TAT	STOCK PR-CLOSE	MITSUB CP	0	1490
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	MITSUB EL	0	1090
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	MITSUB EST	0	2800
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	MITSUB HVT	0	1190
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	MITSUB CO	0	1110
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	MITSUKOSHI	0	2350
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	MITSUBI EL	0	1030
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	NICHICOM	0	1270
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	NIHON CHMT	0	1060
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	NIKKO SEC	0	2100
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	NIP ELEC	0	1900
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	NIP KOKKAN	0	957
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	NIP OIL	0	1610
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	NIP YUSEN	0	947
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	NIS MOTOR	0	1270
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	NOMURA SEC	0	3960
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	OHMA CO	0	975
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	OLYMPIUS	0	1130
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	SUSPENTA OSMO	0	1080
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	PIONEER ES	0	1190
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	RENKAW	0	1010
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	SANKO	0	1190
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	SAHYO ELEC	0	2370
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	SEIYU ST	0	785
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	SEKISUI PB	0	1900
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	SHARP	0	1150
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	SHISEIDO	0	1760
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	SONY	0	7120
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	SUNITOMO	0	1410
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TAISEI	0	1380
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TAISHO MUK	0	1430
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TAKEDA CH	0	2620
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TEIJIN	0	857
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TOKI MOW IX	462.99	460.92
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TOKIO MRM	0	2300
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TOKYO ELEC	0	1340
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TOKYO GAS	0	1410
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TOKYO POWR	0	7430
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TORAY IND	0	925
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TOSHIBA EL	0	1070
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TOTO	0	2070
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TOYO KKOY	0	782
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	TOYOTA MOT	0	2570
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	YAMAHA	0	1450
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	YAMATCHI	0	1990
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	YAMAHOUCHI	0	4090
74.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	74.00	74.00	76.00	YAMAZAKI	0	1490

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS EDGE UP TO RECORD CLOSE
TOKYO, JAN 25, REUTERS - SHARE PRICES FIRMED TO A NEW RECORD CLOSE AFTER LAST MINUTE FUTURES-RELATED BUYING BROUGHT

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS EDGE UP TO RECORD CLOSE

TOKYO, JAN 25, REUTER - SHARE PRICES FIRMED TO A NEW RECORD CLOSE AFTER LAST MINUTE FUTURES-RELATED BUYING BROUGHT PRICES BACK UP FROM AFTERNOON LOSSES. BROKERS SAID.

"THERE ARE NO FUNDAMENTAL WORRIES AS SUCH. TODAY IS JUST AS GOOD AS ANY TO TAKE A PROFIT," SAID SATSUKI OSA, A BROKER AT BARCLAYS DE ZOTTE WEED SECURITIES (JAPAN) LTD.

"PEOPLE ARE TAKING PROFITS ON RECENT GAINERS LIKE RAILWAYS AND ELECTRIC POWER, BUT VOLUME IS QUITE HIGH AND THAT IS ENCOURAGING," SHE SAID.

THE NIKKEI INDEX FIRMED 10.11 POINTS, OR 0.03 PCT, TO A RECORD CLOSE OF 31,567.79.

THE NIKKEI SURGED 224.80 POINTS TO THE PREVIOUS RECORD CLOSE OF 31,557.68 ON TUESDAY, WHEN IT ALSO HIT THE PREVIOUS TRADED HIGH OF 31,559.43.

THE BUYING CARRIED OVER TO TODAY, BRINGING THE INDEX TO A NEW TRADED HIGH OF 31,663.91 IN INITIAL TRADE. BULLS WERE ALSO ENCOURAGED BY WALL STREET'S RISE TO A NEW POST-CRASH HIGH AND LEVELS NOT SEEN SINCE BEFORE THE OCTOBER 1987 STOCK MARKET CRASH.

BUT THE STRONG GAINS HERE BROUGHT IN PROFIT-TAKERS AND THE INDEX FELL 70.27 POINTS TO A LOW OF 31,487.41 NEAR THE AFTERNOON CLOSE.

THE BROADER FIRST SECTION INDEX, OR TOPIX, FIRMED 2.07 POINTS TO A RECORD CLOSE OF 2,462.99, AFTER GAINING 20.57 POINTS TO THE PREVIOUS RECORD CLOSE OF 2,460.92 ON TUESDAY.

RISER LED FALLS BY A NARROW 1.3 TO ONE MARGIN, WITH 512 ISSUES HIGHER, 393 LOWER AND 186 UNCHANGED IN ACTIVE TURNOVER OF 1.2 BILLION SHARES AGAINST 1.3 BILLION.

VOLUMES COULD INCREASE TO LEVELS OF TWO BILLION SHARES BY THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY, SAID ONE FOREIGN BROKER.

THE LIST OF WINNERS WAS HEADED BY GAS, BANK, RETAIL, TRUCKING, NON-LIFE INSURANCE, WAREHOUSE, PRECISION INSTRUMENT, CREDIT/LEASE, AIRLINE AND SOME MANUFACTURING ISSUES.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, JAN 25, REUTER - SHARE PRICES EDGED

FRACTIONALLY LOWER, LEAVING BROKERS UNCLEAR ON WHICH DIRECTION THE MARKET WOULD TAKE IN THE WAKE OF TODAY'S LONG ANTICIPATED LAND AUCTION.

THE HANG SENG INDEX EASED 0.29 OF A POINT TO END AT 2,900.74, AFTER REACHING 2,931.89 THIS MORNING.

THE MANDATE SITE FETCHED 3.35 BILLION H.K. DOLLARS, A PRICE FALLING WITHIN, BUT NOT OUTSTRIPPING, EXPECTATIONS.

"THE MARKET WAS EXPECTING TOO MUCH," ONE BROKER SAID, ADDING "EVERYONE FEELS MILDLY DISAPPOINTED AND THE WHOLE THING HAS BECOME A BIT OF AN ANTI-CLIMAX."

AMMAN

OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	
ARAB BANK	
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.44 2.41
ARAB INSURANCE	
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.21 1.25
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.50 2.45
ARAB PAPER CON/TRADE	
ARAB PHARM. MANF.	
ARAB PHARM. CHEM	0.76 0.75
ARAB POTASH CO.	
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65 1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00 0.95
CATRO ANMAN BANK	
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05 1.25
DAR AL COMM/PRESS	
DAR ALADMA DV/INV.	
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.60 4.55
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39 2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.34 1.30
GENERAL MINING.	1.50 1.42
HIMMEL MINERALS	0.75 0.75
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44 1.44
IND./HATCH JEMCO	
INDSTR. DEVLPT BANK	1.62 1.63
INDSTR./COMM/ADP.	
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75 0.75
INTERN. CO/INV.	0.13 0.13
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.92 0.90
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64 0.64
ITERMED/PETRI/CH	
J. TOUR-SR COMPLEX	0.79 0.80
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26 1.29
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	20.00 19.50
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.01 25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20 1.22
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30 2.30
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20 1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	
JOR LIM BRICK	
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50 0.50
JOR NATIONAL BANK	
JOR PAPER CARDBROG	3.60 3.50
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.90 1.90
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25 4.40
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	
JOR SECURIT CORP.	1.12 1.11
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	
JOR WORSTED MLL	5.00 5.00
JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.94 0.91
JOR. PETROLIUM REF	
JOR. FRENCH INS.	
JOR INV. FIN. CORP	5.45 5.45
JORDANIAN GULF REAL	
JORDAN DAIRY	
JORDAN GULF BANK	
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94 0.95
JORDAN INSURANCE	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	
JORDAN TANNING	
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.74 0.71
MACH/EQUI/RENT/MAIN	
NAS INDUSTRIES	0.69 0.73
MID EAST EXCHANGE	
MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	0.80 0.80
MIDDLE EAST INS	
MINERALS RESEARCH	0.74 0.75
NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	
NAT/CABEL/WIRE/MF	
NATIONAL ALHIA INS	1.38 1.38
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.46 0.45
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	
NATIONAL STEEL	
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25 0.28
PETRA BANK	
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.35 0.35
PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.05 1.10
RAFFIA INDUSTRIAL	
REAL ESTATE INV.	
SHIPPING LINES	
SPINNING MEVING	
THE HOUSING BANK	
UNITED INSURANCE	1.25 1.20
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	
UNIVERSAL INS.	
MOOLEN INDUSTRIES	
YARMOUK INSURANCE	

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				BC-A	67.50	68.00	68.50
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	LC-A	.50	.51	.51
AKS	13.50	13.75	13.75	LC-B	.39	.40	.40
ANK	2.70	2.80	2.75	PC-A <th>.39</th> <th>.40</th> <th>.39</th>	.39	.40	.39
GLD	32.50	33.00	32.50	PK-B <th>.39</th> <th>.40</th> <th>.39</th>	.39	.40	.39
PLO	252.50	255.00	252.50	OIL SECTOR			
KPSI-A	3.05	3.10	3.00	BP-A <td>.015</td> <td>.016</td> <td>.015</td>	.015	.016	.015
KPSI-B			3.30	BP-B <td>.015</td> <td>.016</td> <td>.016</td>	.015	.016	.016
SNC-A	149.00	150.00	149.00	LRC-A <td>.0036</td> <td>.0038</td> <td></td>	.0036	.0038	
SNC-B	236.00	237.00		LRC-B <td>.0036</td> <td>.0038</td> <td>.0038</td>	.0036	.0038	.0038
MINING SECTOR				OPM-A <td>.039</td> <td>.04</td> <td>.04</td>	.039	.04	.04
APX-A <td>.022</td> <td>.023</td> <td>.022</td> <td>OPM-B<td>.04</td><td>.042</td><td></td></td>	.022	.023	.022	OPM-B <td>.04</td> <td>.042</td> <td></td>	.04	.042	
APX-B <td>.022</td> <td>.023</td> <td>.022</td> <td>OV-A<td>.031</td><td>.032</td><td>.031</td></td>	.022	.023	.022	OV-A <td>.031</td> <td>.032</td> <td>.031</td>	.031	.032	.031
AT-A <td>36.50</td> <td>37.00</td> <td>37.00</td> <td>OV-B<td>.031</td><td>.032</td><td>.032</td></td>	36.50	37.00	37.00	OV-B <td>.031</td> <td>.032</td> <td>.032</td>	.031	.032	.032

'Inflation must be brought down'

Fed chief to keep interest rates high

WASHINGTON, Jan 25, (Reuters): Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan, reaffirming his determination to lower US inflation, said yesterday he would keep interest rates high to take some steam out of an economy still surprisingly strong.

Testifying to the House Banking Committee, Greenspan disputed the notion that inflation in the present four to 4-1/2 per cent range was acceptable to the Fed and said the central bank was still aiming for price stability.

Cool
"Current inflation rates, by that criterion, clearly are too high and must be brought down," he said.

The Fed has been raising interest rates steadily for the past 10 months in an effort to cool the economy. The prime rate is now at 10-1/2 per cent, a four-year high.

Nevertheless, Greenspan said growth exceeded three per cent in 1988, on the heels of five per cent growth in 1987, and there were few signs of any significant obstacles to a continuation of the 7-1/2-month-old expansion.

"If growth were to continue indefinitely at the recent pace, the concomitant tightening of supply conditions for labour and materials would risk a serious intensification of inflationary pressures at some not-too-distant point in the future," he warned.

Some industries, including steel, paper and chemicals, were already operating flat out, while a drop in the jobless rate to a 14-year low of 5.3 per cent was pushing up wages.

As a result, the Fed had little choice but to keep tightening its grip on the nation's money supply.

"It is our judgement — as I indicated to the Congress last July — that the long-run costs of a return to higher inflation, and the risks of this occurring under current circumstances, are sufficiently great that Federal Reserve policy at this juncture might well be devised to err more on the side of restrictiveness than of stimulus," Greenspan said.



Alan Greenspan

The Fed has already pushed up the rate on overnight bank loans, which influences the cost of credit throughout the economy,

to nine per cent from 6-1/2 per cent last March, and many economists expect it to rise to at least 10 per cent.

The spectre of tighter credit deals an early blow to Bush, who is counting on falling interest rates to help him reduce the budget deficit without raising taxes.

Submit
Bush will submit his budget proposals to Congress by the middle of February, House Speaker Jim Wright said yesterday after meeting the president at the White House.

Greenspan also poured cold water on the premise of Bush's economic advisers that continued economic growth alone would generate enough tax revenues to cut the deficit painlessly.

"If you ask me can we grow out of the current services deficit with a credible economic forecast, I would say I would doubt that very much," Greenspan told the panel.

But the Fed chief held out a carrot to Bush and Congress. If they worked out sizable reductions in the deficit, he hinted, the Fed would loosen its grip on credit.

"Containing the pressures on labour and capital resources — while continuing to reduce our external imbalances — will require a slowing in domestic demand. Such an outcome will be facilitated to the extent that the federal budget deficit is reduced," the Fed chairman said.

Failed
If Congress and the White House failed to negotiate a package to reduce the deficit he would prefer automatic spending cuts rather than abandoning the deficit-reduction targets prescribed by the Gramm-Rudman law.

On other issues, Greenspan said the improvement in the US trade deficit had stalled temporarily but that it would start to decline again because exports were still strong thanks to the drop in the dollar between 1985 and 1987.

"The dollar now is at levels where US industry is quite competitive," the Fed chairman said.

Government could act on corporate buyouts: Brady

WASHINGTON, Jan 25, (AP): Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady suggested yesterday that unless the investment community stems the tide of debt-financed corporate takeovers the government will step in.

"It is the finest tradition of our democratic system that government look first to the people themselves for solutions and only act — but do act — when it is clear the people cannot solve the problem themselves," he said.

Brady told the Senate Finance Committee the new Bush administration favours eliminating or reducing taxes on corporate dividends as a way to reduce leveraged buyouts, or LBOs.

He acknowledged that the federal budget deficit likely precludes that.

Indication
However, his testimony was the clearest indication yet that the new administration views the multi-billion-dollar debt-financed takeovers as a possible threat to the US economy and is willing to take action to stem them.

headed in the wrong direction when so much of our young talent and the nation's financial resources are aimed at financial engineering while the rest of the world is laying the foundation for the future," he said.

Brady said he would prefer that "the gladiators in the arena," the investment bankers, corporate and insurance executives and pension fund managers who issue and trade in high-interest, high-risk junk bonds, come up with evidence that the resulting debt burdens are not harmful, or else that they suggest proposals for addressing them.

Buyouts

While companies acquired through leveraged buyouts often lack the cash flows to pay interest on the junk bonds that financed the deals, the bankers, underwriters and fund managers in the transactions make millions of dollars in fees, Brady complained.

investment in the long-term success of the new enterprises," he said. "Given this arrangement, it may very well be that the net effect of LBOs is a snipe hunt, where the new long-term investors, flashlight in hand, are left holding the bag."

Quite a different view was expressed earlier yesterday by Securities and Exchange Commission chairman David Ruder, who is scheduled to testify today before the Senate panel.

Efficient
Ruder said on the "CBS This Morning" television programme that the leveraged buyouts are increasing ownership of companies by the manager who run them "and will make us a more productive economy."

"After these buyouts, the managers of the divisions typically will be allowed to run the divisions without having to be overseen by top management of the large conglomerate, and they may be very much more efficient in their management when they're on their own," Ruder said.

European shares boom falters

Intervention again forces dollar lower

LONDON, Jan 25, (Reuters): A share-buying spree pushed leading European stock markets higher today but the enthusiasm waned off after Wall Street had an indifferent morning session.

The dollar eased after reports that the US central bank intervened in the open market to brake the currency's rise.

The London Stock Market, which had started with a 25.6-point leap on the FTSE index of 100 leading shares, plunged just before the close and market rumours of a massive corporate rights issue planned for tomorrow.

The "Footsie" ended 2.1 points lower at 1,939.

Unchanged
One London dealer said the unchanged opening on Wall Street had already taken the wind out of our sails. "He added: "But prices were already tending to drift lower or lower turnover."

Shares had soared in early business in London after Tokyo closed at an all-time high and Wall Street had finished yesterday at its highest since the October 1987 crash.

Investors had also been heartened by a growing conviction that the British economy was no longer in danger of overheating.

West German shares closed off their highs in brisk trade after profit-takers pounced on the Frankfurt Exchange.

French stock values ended sharply higher in active business, boosted by heavy buying of blue chips, dealers in Paris said.

Wall Street traders said they expected stocks to consolidate following yesterday's 38-point gain. By noon, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was 3.75 points higher at 2,260.18.

Worries
The dollar dipped after the US central bank, the Federal Reserve, sold the currency when it rose to around 1.8500 West

German marks, dealers in New York said.

Worries about Central Bank interventions have limited the dollar's advance but it is still buoyed by firmer US interest rates, they said.

The dollar ended in London at 1.8435 marks and 127.75 Japanese yen after closing yesterday at 1.8395 and 127.60.

Gold bullion was set at \$404.20 an ounce in quiet afternoon business, down from yesterday's finish of 406.75.

World oil prices jumped up to 70 cents a barrel because of higher demand from refiners, traders said.

Crude
North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded crude, was quoted in late London business at around \$16.40 a barrel for March delivery against 15.75 yesterday.

The benchmark US Treasury 30-year bond was quoted in London at 103-17/32 per cent, yielding 8.79 per cent.

In London equities drifted well off their highs in late trades as volume declined and Wall Street showed a small loss after an initial gain, dealers said.

"The fall in the US has taken the wind out of our sails, but prices were already tending to drift lower in lower turnover," one trader said. He noted a recent trend of a fall in volume during the afternoon taking prices off their best levels.

Stake
Some traders said the apparent failure of P and O to place its Taylor Woodrow stake had a bigger impact on sentiment than the rumours of a rights issue.

"With institutional liquidity as high as it is I can't see that even a huge rights issue would have too much impact," said one trader. "But, if P and O can't place 10 per cent of Taylor Woodrow at a cheap price, ...

that's bad news."

Market rumour held that P and O had tried to place its 10 per cent of Taylor Woodrow, some 16 million shares, at 605p per share.

P and O broker Hoare Govett declined to comment.

Traders said there were various names rumoured to be launching a rights issue but Rank organisation, which reports annual figures tomorrow, was the hot favourite. Rank, down 20p to 753, had no comment.

Builders' merchant magnet was one of the few other features, leaping 58p to 263 after announcing a possible bid approach from its management. The company is currently capitalised at around £500 million, dealers noted.

Futures exchanges prepare to open records to investigators

CHICAGO, Jan 25, (Reuters): The Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange yesterday pieced together five years of records covering millions of trades for scrutiny by federal investigators looking into an alleged multi-million dollar fraud.

The world's two largest futures exchanges were under subpoena to make the records, much of them on computer tape, available to the US attorney in Chicago by this morning.

Testimony
A board of trade spokesman said government investigators would come to its offices to review the files rather than making the institution cart the records several blocks away to the 16th floor of a federal building where a special grand jury has been convened to take testimony.

A Mercantile Exchange official said it was likely the exchange would do the same thing.

Contracts worth billions of dollars covering everything from lumber to government bonds are traded daily on the exchanges.

Last year, the Mercantile Exchange alone saw 80 million contracts traded.

A two-year undercover operation that used Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents posing as traders at both exchanges ended last week with disclosures that some traders had cheated each other and their customers out of millions of dollars.

While the undercover phase of the probe is finished, investigators are pursuing trails of wrongdoing which one source close to the investigation has said could result in 150 or more indictments.

In addition, the investigators are looking into whether organised crime may have used the floor of the Mercantile Exchange to launder illegal profits — something the exchange has flatly denied.

The Chicago Sun-Times newspaper reported yesterday that investigators were also looking into whether tax evasion charges could be brought against those who made illegal trades and then hid their profits from the tax collector.

In an editorial yesterday, the Chicago Tribune newspaper said the exchanges need to be "free of fraudulent manipulators as well as overly restrictive government regulators." But it said the probe should result in a stronger industry.

"The investigation undoubtedly will re-ignite efforts in Congress to impose stronger regulation on the futures industry, already the whipping boy for some lawmakers who were looking for a single cause of the 1987 stock market crash," the newspaper said.

Economic bloc in the offing

From Seyssah Bureau in Amman

IRAQI President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh may arrive in Cairo today to join King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to declare the creation of a sub-regional economic grouping, informed sources said.

The sources said that Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen have held contacts and consultations during the past two months to establish an economic grouping.

Sources in the capitals of these four countries said that Arab Maghreb states will shortly also announce the creation of such a similar grouping. Thus, there will be three sub-regional groupings in the Arab world, of which, the Gulf Co-operation Council is the pioneer.

Talks
Reuters adds: "The GCC is already there and talks have started between Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Libya to form a united Maghreb similar to the European Economic Community. So why can't we enjoy something similar to that?" said a Jordanian source close to the government.

"Even if the nature of our economies are different, we have to start from somewhere," he added.

Oil prices rally strongly

LONDON, Jan 25, (Reuters): Oil prices rallied by up to 70 cents a barrel on world markets today, oil traders said.

Markets had slumped sharply since Monday in reaction to recent strong gains, but renewed demand for North Sea crude, constructive US stock figures and caution ahead of a joint meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC technical experts starting tomorrow in London, helped boost prices once more.

Refiners were in the market buying North Sea crude on Tuesday to take advantage of the recent price correction before levels moved back up again, traders said.

The leading US crude, West Texas Intermediate, broke back through the \$18 a barrel level for March loading cargoes.

However, traders were uncertain over market direction after the sharp falls of the past two trading sessions.

Our unity is stronger now, says OPEC official

Oil experts planning strategy for joint session

LONDON, Jan 25, (AP): Officials from OPEC and independent oil-producing nations huddled in two separate groups today, planning their strategy for a joint meeting tomorrow at which they are to work toward co-operating to produce crude oil prices.

A senior OPEC source said he was hopeful that an agreement could be reached for independent producers to cut their production, although he said that wasn't likely to happen immediately.

"Our unity is stronger now. Prices have strengthened and we are ready" for a co-operative agreement, said the senior OPEC official, who requested anonymity.

Suggested
The gathering follows a similar meeting in April, when six non-OPEC producers met with representatives of the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and suggested they jointly cut their exports by five per cent. OPEC rejected that proposal.

This time, some of eight attending non-OPEC producers might offer to cut their collective production by five per cent, without asking for reciprocal cuts from OPEC, non-OPEC sources have said this week.

They likely would want reassurances from OPEC that, in the event, the organisation would not increase its own production.

The spot price of North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded international crude oil, was \$16.25 a barrel today morning, up 24 cents from late yesterday.

West Texas Intermediate, the US benchmark crude oil, stood at \$17.54 a barrel late yesterday, up 21 cents from late Monday.

OPEC experts from Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Indonesia, Venezuela and Nigeria met today at the Indonesian embassy.

The organisation key spokesman and director general, Subroto, attended the meeting, entering the embassy without speaking to reporters.

Get together
Saudi Arabian official Abdul Aziz Al Turki said as he entered, "We have to say hello to each other. We have to talk about the scene and get together."

Alirio A. Parra, a Venezuela official, said: "We are going to review supply and demand."

The non-OPEC producers met at a hall in the city, the financial district, where tomorrow's meeting was to be held.

Attending were Malaysia, Colombia, Angola, China, Egypt, Oman, Mexico, North Yemen, along with observers from the Soviet Union, the Canadian oil-producing province of Alberta and the US states of Alaska and Texas.

Tomorrow's gathering was intended to establish "a common language on 1989 — the situation in 1989 for demand supply and the price of oil," the senior OPEC source said.

"This is the first step in a step-by-step move" to push up oil prices, he said.

"Right after the November (full OPEC ministerial meeting), non-OPEC countries stated their support," for OPEC's latest output agreement and a move to shore up oil prices, the source said.

OPEC participants feel that if all goes well this week, the next step would be to call a meeting of the ministers of the six members of the OPEC contact group with ministers from the participating non-OPEC countries, the source said.

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WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Jan 25, (Reuters): A strong market closed on its day's high as investors pursued quality stocks across the board. The All Ordinaries index finished up 10.9 at 1,536.2.

TOKYO: Share prices firmed to a record close after last-minute futures-related buying brought prices up from afternoon lows. The Nikkei rose 10.11 to 31,567.79.

HONG KONG: Prices edged fractionally lower, leaving brokers unclear on the market's direction after today's long-awaited land auction. The Hang Seng eased 0.29 to end at 2,900.74.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed on a buoyant note after renewed buying interest and bargain-hunting brought widespread gains in active trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 13.71 to 1,101.39.

BOMBAY: Prices closed sharply higher after a rally by market leader Tata Steel, which said it proposed to split its 100-rupee face value share to 10 rupees each.

PARIS: Prices extended gains by midday in active trading, with blue chips showing strong rises.

NEW YORK: Blue chips, dampened by early profit-taking, stayed marginally lower in mid-morning although the broader market held gains. Sharply higher crude oil prices were a bearish factor. The Dow was down four at 2,253.

Fiat profit surges 23pc as car sales boom in Europe

TURIN, Italy, Jan 25, (Reuters): Italian car, aviation and defence giant Fiat said today it boosted operating profit by 23 per cent last year, helped by booming car sales in Europe.

Profit was a provisional 3.82 trillion lire (\$2.8 billion). Sales rose 16 per cent to 44.45 trillion lire (\$32.9 billion).

Fiat SPA's president, Giovanni Agnelli, told shareholders in a letter that business had been better than expected with European car sales up 9.8 per cent to 1.93 million.

The group, which makes Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Lancia cars, tied with West Germany's Volkswagen AG in the battle to lead Europe's car market with almost 15 per cent of the market.

"1988 was a boom year and the Tipo was a great success," said Francesca Lolli of London brokers Hoare Govett.

Upheaval
Despite the boom, however, Italy's largest private industrial group with 278,000 employees suffered a management upheaval and political problems.

Vittorio Ghidella, the head of Fiat cars, resigned in November in a policy dispute with Agnelli and with Cesare Romiti, group managing director.

Ghidella, credited with a big role in a Fiat turnaround in the 1980s, was responsible for launching such successful models as the Uno and Tipo.

Agnelli said at the time that Ghidella wanted to put too much emphasis on the car sector.

Romiti, a tough financial manager and a proponent of swift diversification into fields such as financial services and telecommunications, was named to succeed Ghidella.

Fiat hit headlines against this month when the Communist Party and trade unions accused it of discriminating against union members at its car plants, denying them promotion and benefits.

Labour Minister Rino Formica said last week there was no evidence Fiat had conducted a systematic anti-union strategy.

"It has been demonstrated that the accusations were groundless... and the absence of any anti-union strategy by Fiat has been recognised," Agnelli told shareholders today.

Business growth could slow this year as Fiat consolidates recent gains, stockbroker analysts say.



T.N.T. Skypack general manager, Tim Frank, checks in the industries first Kuwait-London courier on their twice weekly service.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 25/1/89			
B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Shalamar	Aigh Barwil	4842988
4	Tabuk	KSA	4843150
6	Rubens	GH&O	4347815
7	Sea Star	Sager Shaheen	2432692
14	Al Yamamah	KSA	4843150
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
25/1	Haishon	Maraft Intl	2465645
25/1	Tochigi Maru	A.M. Bahar	2433881
26/1	Viktor Talakhin	Al Rashed	2422026
26/1	B. Sagittarius	Gulf Star	4845501
26/1	Karina	KSA	4843150
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
B. No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Baffin Bay	RSMs	2423642
11	Crystal Reed	ISA	2441860
14	Rivertyne	Aigh Barwil	4842988
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
25/1	Pal Eagle	RSMs	2423642
28/1	Providence Bay	KMMC	2419814
29/1	Yamamah	UASC	4843150
5/2	City of Beirut	RSMs	2423642

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Dear Junior Readers,

Today we wish all our Indian readers a very happy Republic Day.

For those of us lucky to be born free, in our own territories, with our own flags, national anthems, passports, and all the other trappings of citizenship, we should never forget the sacrifices of those who achieved this freedom for us.

(There are still people in the world today who are not as lucky as we are — your Palestinian friends for example — they have been without a country since 1948.

Freedom is a very precious commodity. Handle it with care and don't ever take it for granted.

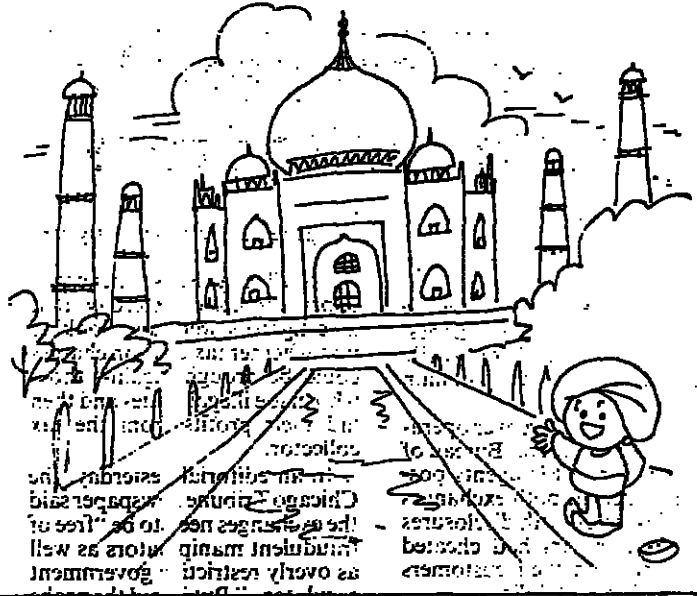
Enjoy your weekend

Auntie Ghazala

Answers to Tuesday's crossword

Across: 1 Lotus; 4 Camel; 7 Confess; 8 Orb; 9 Until; 10 Hers; 12 Yes; 14 Roll; 16 Paper; 19 Bun; 20 Private; 21 Green; 22 Token.
Down: 1 Lacquer; 2 Tenet; 3 Seemly; 4 Cask; 5 Moose; 6 Lob; 11 Surgeon; 13 Sprint; 15 Lounge; 17 Plank; 18 Open; 19 Bag.

BEAUTIFUL BUILDING — Can you name this 'Crown of the Palace' which is found in India?



Truly amazing!

Rossini, the Italian composer, wrote 38 operas in the first 37 years of his life, and though he lived for another 39 years, never wrote another one.

The giraffe is about 1.2 metres taller than a double-decker bus. In spite of its long neck it has poor vocal cords and has only 7 bones in its neck. This makes it difficult for a longer reach when catching insects.

In 1905 a man ran up the 729 steps of the Eiffel Tower in Paris in 3 minutes 12 seconds.

One-sixth of the land area of the earth is to be found within the boundaries of the USSR.

At least one person in ten in Great Britain plays darts.

A street in Guanajuat, Mexico, is so narrow that sweethearts can kiss each other across their opposite balconies.

By 1776 George IV as Prince of Wales, had amassed debts which would be equal to £12 million today.

In Queanbeyan, Australia, there is a tandem which carries 31 people.

British gold sovereigns and half sovereigns were replaced by treasury notes in 1914.

Tattooing on the chin was once a sign of high rank among the Maoris of New Zealand, and though no longer practised, it is quite common among the elders.

Fans were found in the tomb of Tutankhamen, with their ostrich feathers intact after more than 3,000 years.

The bathtub used by President William Taft, in the White House, USA, was so huge to hold his great bulk, that four workmen once sat in it comfortably.

The Apache Indian Geronimo, who terrorised the southwest of America during the 1880s, ended his days selling his photograph for 25 cents each.

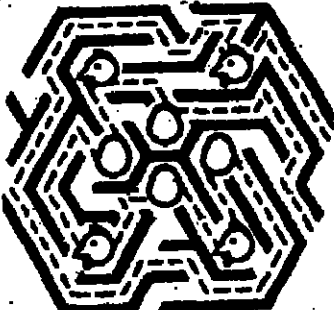
ANSWERS

BEAUTIFUL BUILDING — Taj Mahal

TWO TILES — 8 and 11

TRICKY LINES — "A to B" and "B to C" are the same length. "B to C" appears longer because the bulge in the half-circle fools the eye by seeming to "stretch" the line.

amaze SOLUTION



"MY third voyage," said Sindbad the next day, "was hardly begun when a very great storm arose, and the captain told us the ship was being driven towards an island, which was the home of numbers of little hairy savages not more than a metre high. He said they were very fierce, and we had better not make them angry in case they became dangerous.

"As our vessel neared the land a swarm of them swam out, dragged it ashore, made us all get out, and then took the ship away with them to another island. As it was useless to stand and look after them, we walked on until we reached a beautiful palace, the courtyard of which we entered.

"The yard led to a room where we saw a heap of men's bones, and a large number of spits, or long, steel skewers, on which joints of meat are roasted. As we stood looking at these things, a truly terrible ogre came into the room, making a loud noise.

"In the very middle of his forehead was a huge eye, the only one he had; his mouth was like that of a horse, and his ears flapped down on his shoulders like an elephant's. He was as tall as a high tree, and one glance at him was enough to make us all nearly die with fright.

"Having taken a good look at us, the horrid ogre picked me up by my neck, and turned me round and round, but seemed to think me too thin, for, indeed, I

The third voyage of Sindbad



was little more than skin and bone. Then he seized the captain, who was the fattest of us all, roasted, and ate him.

"After this he went to sleep, and troubled us no

more till the next day, when he roasted and ate another of our crew. On the third day he ate another, and we then made up our minds to kill him and try to escape. There were ten of us left,

and each one taking a spit, and making its point red hot, we stuck them all together into the one eye of our terrible enemy.

"Mad with pain he tried to seize us; but we got out

of the way of his fearful claw-like hands, and ran off to the shore. Here we made some rafts, but had not got afloat when two giants came in sight leading the terrible ogre who we had fondly hoped was dead.

"Jumping on to the rafts we pushed off from the shore, but the giants wading into the water as far as they dared, threw after us some huge stones which, falling upon the rafts, sank them all but the one on which I stood with two other men. Happily we got out of their reach quickly and, after beating about on the sea for many hours, came to another island, where we found some very good fruit.

"Being now tired out we lay down to sleep, but were soon awakened by a rustling sound which, to our horror, we found was made by a huge snake. Before we could get away, the creature swallowed one of my comrades, and then went back his den. The next night he came again, and caught the second of my comrades, as he was following me up a tree, where he had hoped to be quite safe.

"All night I lay on one of the boughs, afraid to sleep in case the cruel monster should come back. As soon as day broke I slid down, gathered all the brushwood near, and making it into bundles placed some of them round the tree; the

others I tied to the topmost branches. When the sky began to darken in the evening, I lit them, and kept myself safe all night, for, though the snake came, he feared to cross my circle of fire.

"In the morning, feeling very miserable, I made up my mind to drown myself, but, on reaching the shore, I saw some distance off a ship passing slowly by. Unrolling my turban I waved it loft, while shouting loudly, until the captain sent a boat to fetch me to the ship.

"Good fortune now met me once again, for this was the very captain who had sailed away without me on my second voyage. As soon as he learned who I was, he told me how glad he was to have been able to make up for that fault, by saving me now from what might have proved a worse fate.

"He had taken care of my goods left on the ship, and now returned them to me with much pleasure. On reaching port I sold them at a fair price, and again returned to Basra with a large sum of money.

"From Basra I went to Baghdad and bought another fine house with splendid grounds all round it. As I had done each time before, so I did now, giving a great deal of money to poor people of the city, and settling down for some time to a quiet life. But this I found very difficult to do, and at last went to sea for the fourth time, when again many wonderful things happened to me."

Waiter minute

Why is my food all mushed up?
You did ask me to step on it, sir.

This soup is terrible! Call the manager!
He won't call either, sir.

Bring me a dragon sandwich.
Sorry, sir. We've run out of bread.

You've brought me the wrong order!
Well, you did say you wanted something different.

What's this fly doing in my soup?
Looks like he's trying to get out, sir.

There's a cockroach in my soup!
That's strange — it's usually a fly.

There's a frog in my soup!
Yes, sir. The fly's on holiday.

There's a fly in my soup.
That's all right, sir. There's a spider on your roll.

Bring me a crocodile sandwich immediately.
I'll make it snappy, sir.

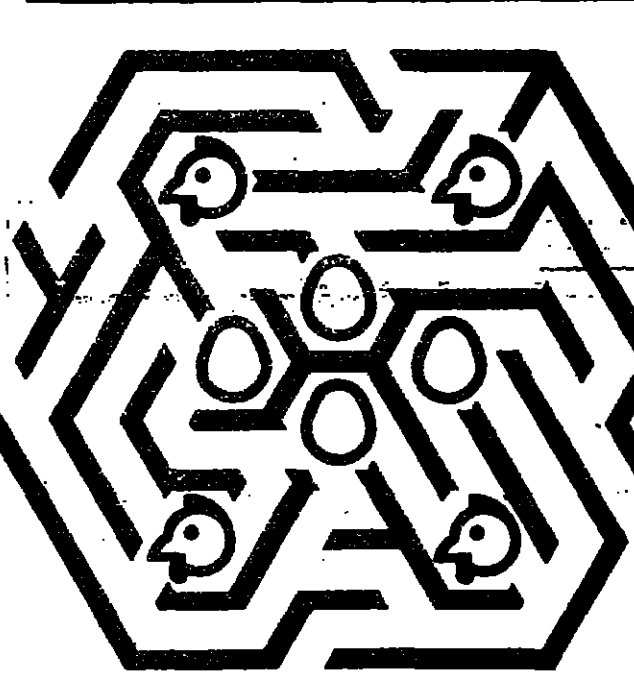
What do you charge for dinner?
£5 a head, sir.

Very well. Just bring me an ear.

What's in this Hungarian Goulash?
Only genuine Hungarians, sir.

There's a fly playing about in my saucer!
Yes, sir. Next week he hopes to be playing in the cup.

amaze WHICH CAME FIRST?



by Dave Phillips

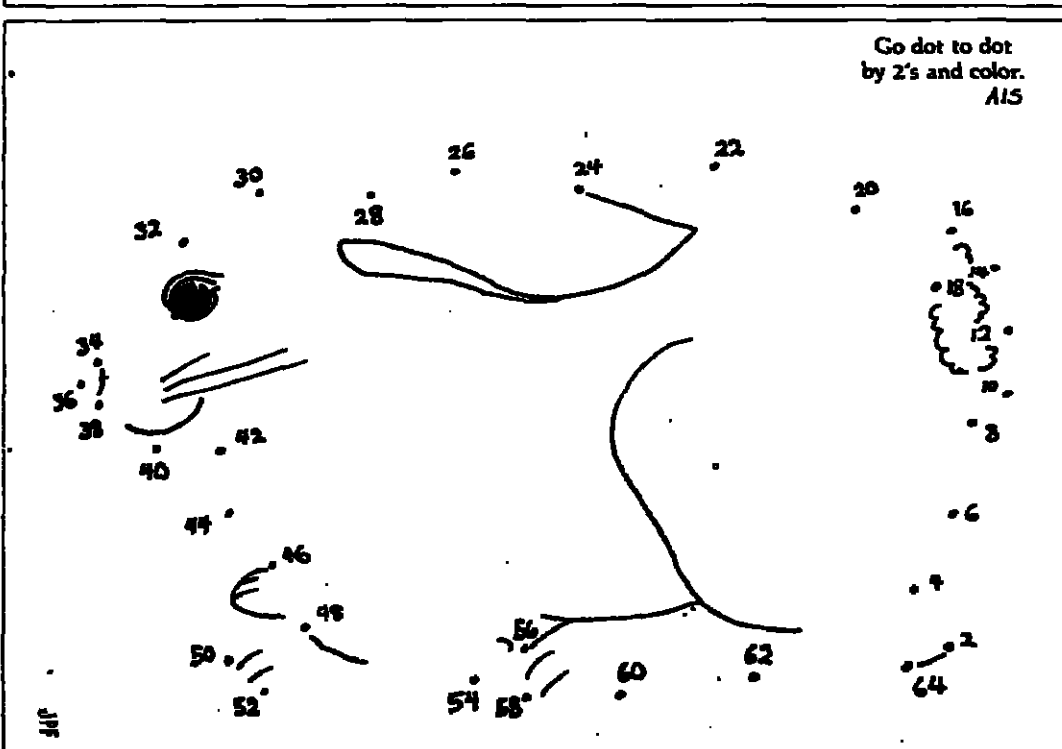
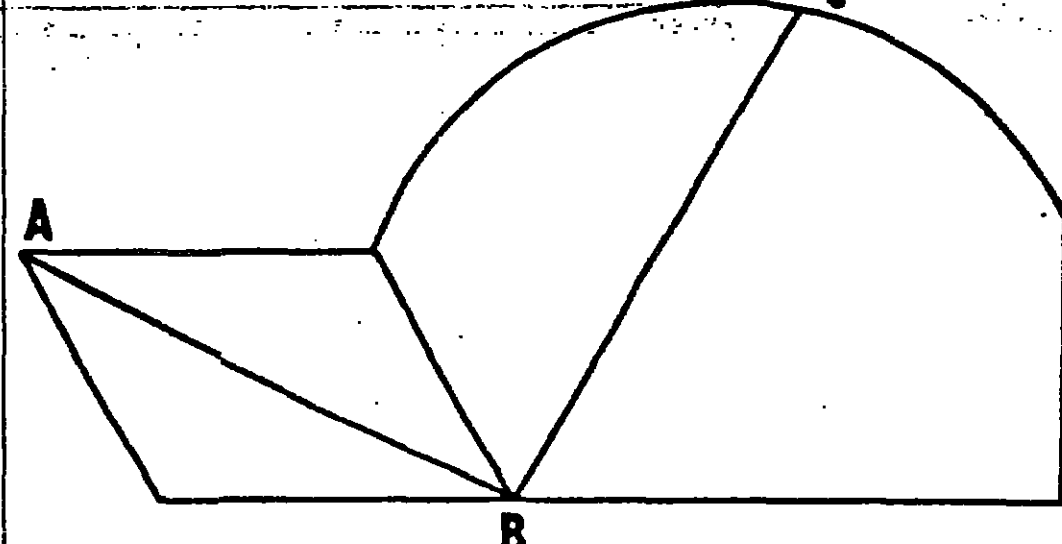
Find the only path which enters the maze, passes through all chickens and eggs, and exits the maze, without using any part of a path more than once. A chicken must go to an egg, or an egg must go to a chicken; you decide.



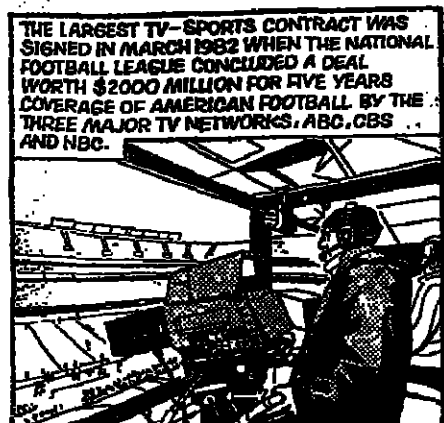
Seeing Isn't Believing

TRICKY LINES

Which line is longer — "A to B" or "B to C"?



Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS



THE LARGEST TV-SPORTS CONTRACT WAS SIGNED IN MARCH 1982 WHEN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE CONCLUDED A DEAL WORTH \$200 MILLION FOR FIVE YEARS COVERAGE OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL BY THE THREE MAJOR TV NETWORKS, ABC, CBS AND NBC.



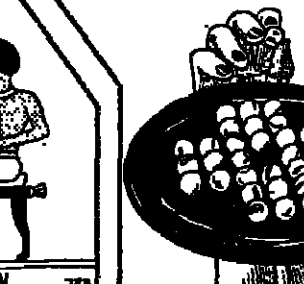
THE SEIKO TV-WRIST WATCH, LAUNCHED IN JAPAN ON 23 DEC 1982, HAS A 1-2 IN (30.5mm) SCREEN AND WEIGHS 2-8oz (90g).



DRAUGHTS, KNOWN AS CHECKERS IN NORTH AMERICA, HAS ITS ORIGINS EARLIER THAN CHESS. IT WAS PLAYED IN EGYPT AS FAR BACK AS THE SECOND MILLENNIUM BC.

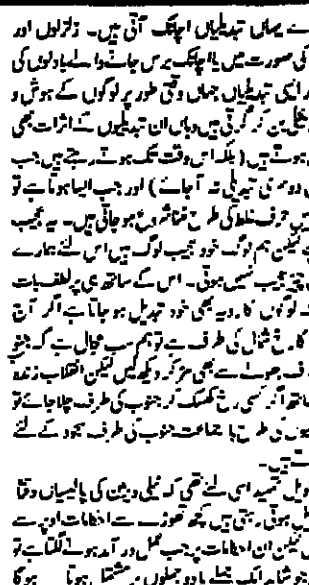


THE SHORTEST TIME TAKEN TO COMPLETE A GAME OF SOLITAIRE IS 15-5 SECONDS BY CAROLINE HARRISON OF SITTINGBOURNE, KENT ON BBC TELEVISION RECORD BREAKERS ON 12 OCT 1987.



THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO WIN THE WOMEN'S WORLD CHESS TITLE IS NAYIA CHIBURDANIDZE (USSR) (17 JAN 1967) WHO WON IT IN 1978 WHEN ONLY 17, ALTHOUGH SHE SEEMS NOT TO ALWAYS WIN THE APPROVAL OF HER COACH, EDUARD GUFELD!

عبداللہ اور جو کو مصنف سے جو حق غیر اس کی میں سہیلی کر سکی اور فاطمہؓ شریعہ کو کم معاوضہ کی شکایت ہے۔

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آف دے
اسکریپٹ



سُکھیا، آوتیہ لہندہ سکو شاتی "گناہیں کا لوٹا" کے نیک مظہر ہیں



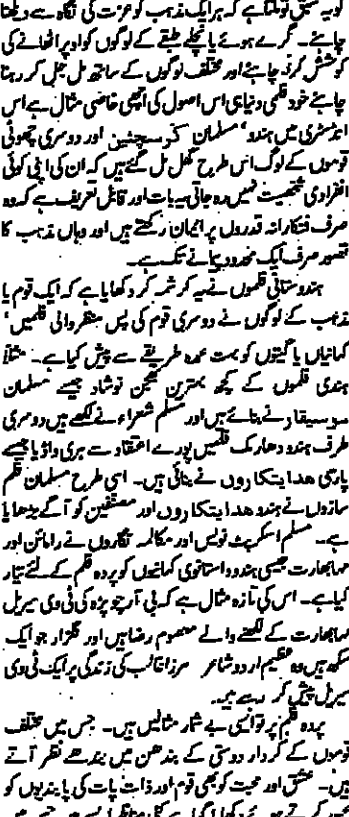
ہیروئن رادھا (دیویا بھارتی) اور گووندہ کرنی کمار کی غنی فلم کے ستارے

دوستانی مضمون کا یہ ہے کہ مختلف مذاہب اور قومیتوں کے لوگوں کو ایک لڑی میں پر کرنے کا کام کرتی رشی حسین فنی صنعت کے سٹر بہارت دیش واسی بنا رہے ہیں۔

کویہ سنی قوم ہے کہ ہر ایک مذہب کو عزت کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا



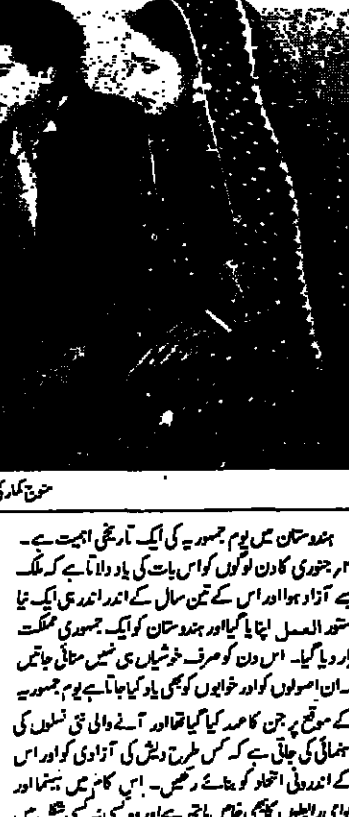
تجرباں یہ سہری دہری سے قلم "فرشتہ" م۔

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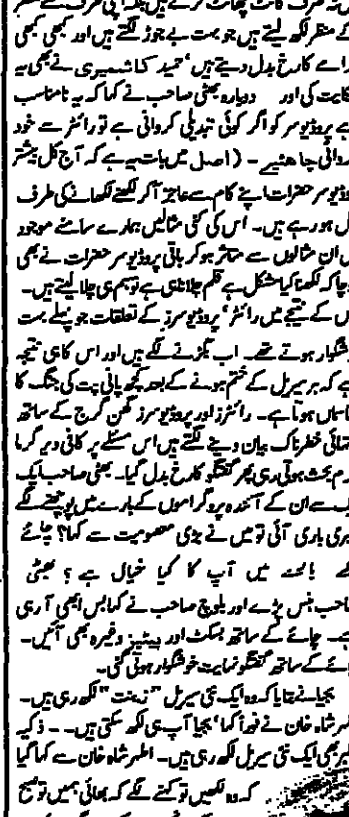
مسلم کردار ایسے ہندو دوست کرشنا کو بھلنے کے لئے انجان بن



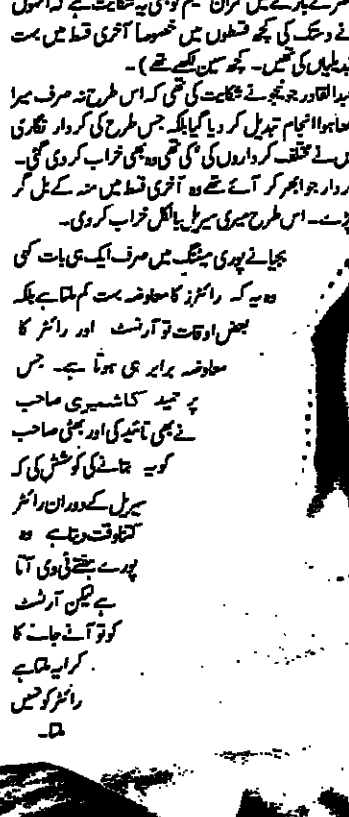
”دیش داسی“ میں پونہ و ہلالوں کے ساتھ گوسوائی منداگنی اور اوم شیو پوری



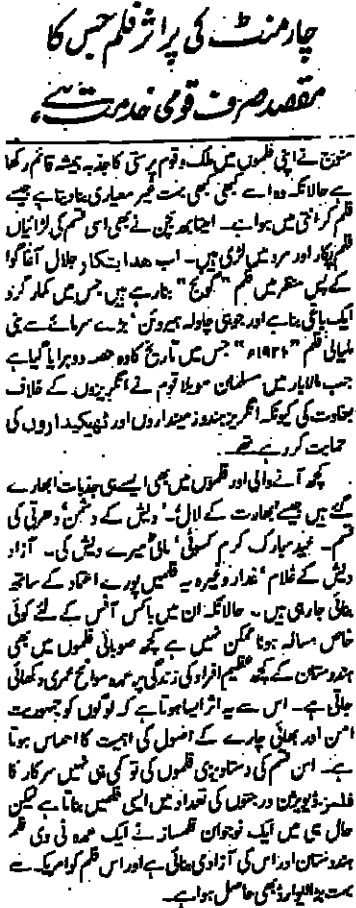
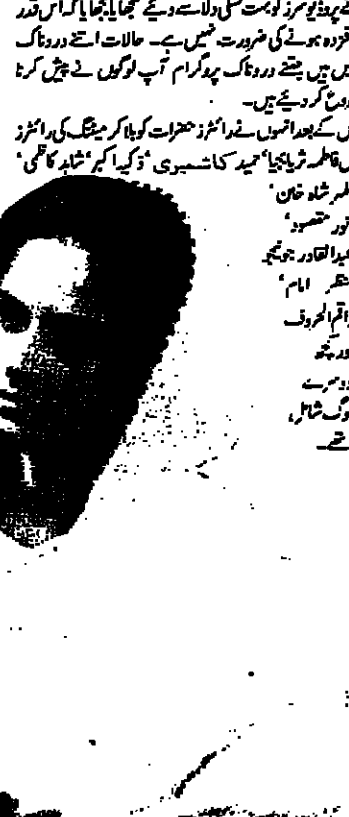
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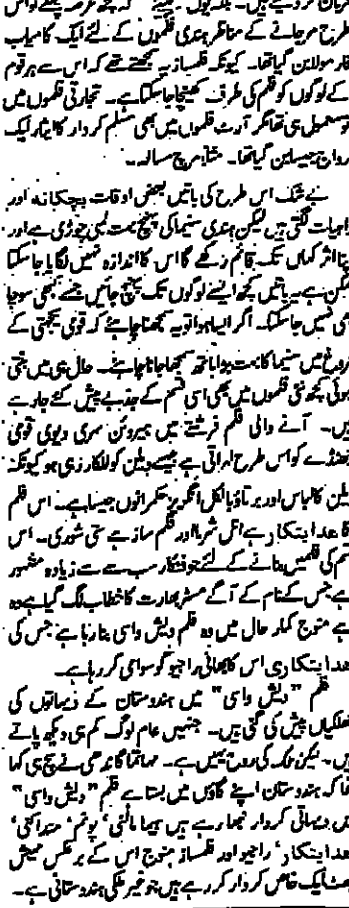


کے پانچ منٹ کے پروگرام کیلئے



THE

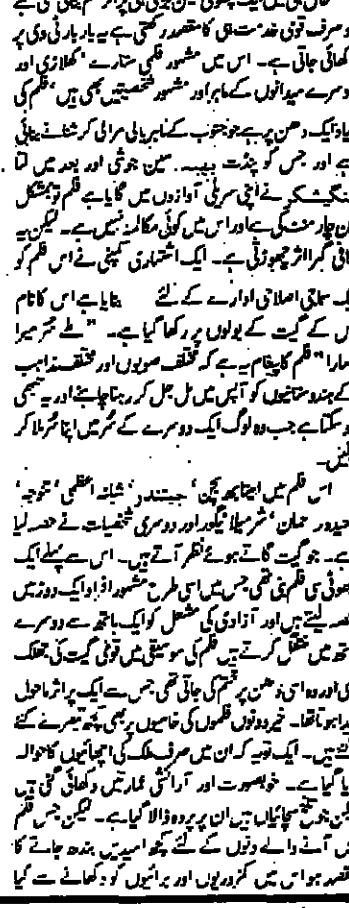




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SPORTS

Lanka Colts blast Hubara

LANKA Colts crushed Hubara Cricket Club by nine wickets in a Burud Trophy League A match at the EPI grounds on Friday.

Despite a good start given by skipper Craig Shipton and J.B. Patel, who scored 65 and 19 respectively, Hubara were restricted to 130 for nine in 30 overs.

Returned
This was due to some fine bowling by Ralph, Osen and Hiran who returned figures of two for 11, three for 12 and two for nine respectively.

In reply, Colts made short work of the Hubara bowlers and scored the required runs for the loss of only one wicket — that of skipper Hiran for 25.

Chris and Osen remained unbeaten on 62 and 41 respectively.

Kolbe retires
BONN, Jan 25, (Reuters): Peter-Michael Kolbe, the towering West German who won five world championships but failed to land an Olympic gold medal in rowing's most prestigious event, the singles sculls, announced his retirement yesterday.

His fierce rivalry with three times Olympic champion Pertti Karppinen of Finland has been a focal point of the sport for the past 15 years.

Snatched
The 35-year-old Kolbe defeated Karppinen in two world championships but finished second behind him at the 1976 and 1984 Olympics. Both times Karppinen snatched the race from Kolbe's grasp in the final.

Even when Karppinen failed to reach the single sculls final at last year's Seoul Olympics, gold medalist Kolbe when he finished second behind the sport's new star, Thomas Lange of East Germany.

KIFCO Trophy
STARLITE meet Evergreen in the final of the KIFCO Trophy cricket tournament, sponsored by the Kuwait International Finance Co. (KIFCO) and organised by the Kuwait Cricket League (KCL), at the Sabah Al Salem (NC) ground on Friday.

The umpires will be from the KIFCO Cricket Club. The match will start at 9 am and will be a 45 overs-a-side affair.

Asraf Khan, the general manager of KIFCO and chairman of KIFCO will give away the trophy.

Gold Trophy
GOLD Star Cricket Club will organise the Gold Trophy cricket tournament in the first week of February at the Blue Tower ground. Winners will be awarded gold medals. The tournament will be played on a knock-out basis. For entry call Qayyum, Tel: 2401586 (office hours).

YRC draw
THE draw for the 6th Youth Recreation Centre football tournament will be held on Friday at 10 am at the Miami Restaurant, near the Sour grounds. For further information contact: L.M. Pinto, Tel: 4832409/2657293 or Eric 3262800/5650466.

Powerboat racing suffers from lack of support: Sayafe
By Gail Seery

"THE major problem facing powerboat racing in Kuwait is that we do not have government support or backing," says Hosam Al Sayafe, who took part in Dubai's Powerboat Race on January 20.

In that race 150 people worked hard to put on a flawless event, and 65 boats, including many from overseas, started the event.

Sayafe and Karam managed to take an impressive fourth place overall and in their group, racing against professional drivers and top calibre boats, and this result should be applauded as a measure of how high the standard of racing actually is in Kuwait.

Happy
However, Kuwait powerboat racing suffers not only from a shortage of cash but also from a refusal on the part of the government bodies concerned to accept that this is a worthwhile sport.

"This sport is new in Kuwait, but world-wide it is not new," says Sayafe. "We need coverage from the papers and from the TV if we are to grow. KTV is happy to show a bicycle race in Mexico, or a small dog pulling along a toy, but will not come and cover what Kuwaitis are doing here and in the Gulf."

Sayafe had organised a small local race as a practice event, and had to apply to the Boat Registration Department, the Coast Guard and the Ministry of the Interior. In each place he was told he could have approval if the others agreed. "I also asked the Ministry of Health for an ambulance and the fire people for support, but they were very obliging."

"I have written to Sheikh Saad, and pointed out that this

AUSTRALIA HOPE TO WIN IN SYDNEY

W. Indies can tackle spin: Lloyd

SYDNEY, Jan 25, (Reuters): West Indies team manager Clive Lloyd said today doubts about their strength against Australian spin bowling in the fourth Test were unfounded.

"People try to devalue what we do and I resent that," Lloyd said of charges his team is weak facing spin bowlers despite taking a 3-0 lead in the five-Test series. The fourth Test starts here tomorrow.

"People should say exactly how good we are and state why we are good instead of slating us when we are winning under all conditions," the former captain told reporters during practice at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Farical
The Australian press dismissed the West Indies victory in last week's controversial rain-shortened World Series Cup final as hollow, farical and meaningless.

Australia, desperate for an antidote to the West Indies' fast bowling power, have brought three spin bowlers into their squad for the fourth Test.

Balls have a tendency to turn square on the flat, dusty Sydney



Richards: not frightened of spinners

pitch, a graveyard for previous West Indies teams. Since their 1930-31 tour, the Caribbeans have won only two of 10 Tests there.

The last time they met in 1984-85, Australia won by an innings and 55 runs, thanks to 38-year-old leg-spinner Bob Holland who took 10 wickets.

Australia hopes to repeat that, this time through 35-year-old Trevor Hohns who would be the fifth oldest Australian since

World War Two to make a debut. He joins off-spinners Peter Taylor and Tim May in the squad.

Despite their poor record in Sydney, West Indies captain Viv Richards is confident of another win.

"We're not frightened of spinners. We've won in India and Pakistan on turning pitches," he said.

"Regardless of the state of the pitch or the number of spinners, we intend to continue playing the type of cricket that has made us so successful for so long."

Injured Australian batsman Dean Jones passed a fitness test yesterday and will play tomorrow. He fractured his right index finger during his top-scoring stint in last week's World Series cricket final when he was hit by a lifting Curtly Ambrose delivery.

Mark Taylor, the most consistent opener in Sheffield Shield cricket this summer, was introduced to the Australian squad to boost the top-order batting.

Lloyd also blasted Australian cricket officials yesterday after

practice nets were given to the New South Wales state team ahead of West Indies.

"We are the guests of their country," he declared. "What's more important, the state squad or the West Indian team?"

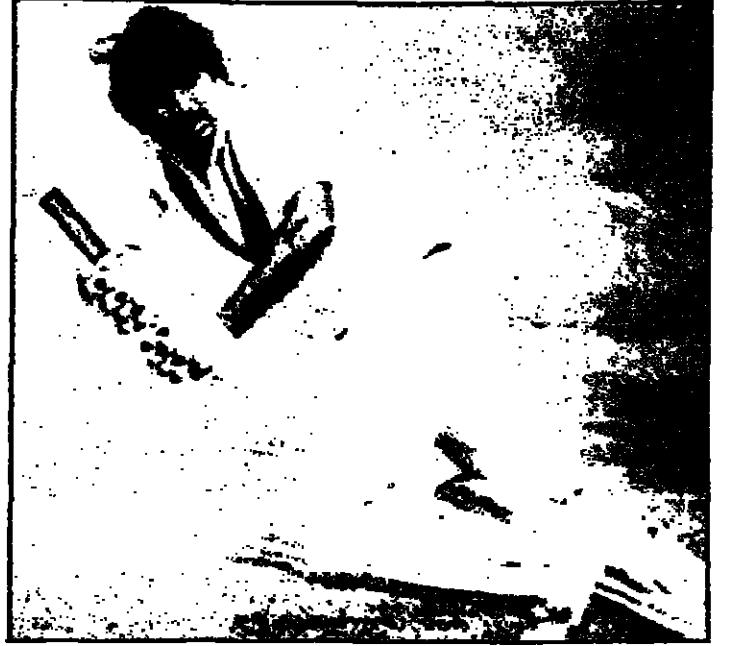
"I'm hopping bloody mad. It is ridiculous, just ridiculous and I shall make a report to my board and to the New South Wales Cricket Association. I don't see England or any other top-class country coming to practice here and being treated like this."

The West Indies are likely to stay with the side that has previously been successful in the Test series. They will announce their team just before the match.

Australia: Allan Border (captain), Geoff Marsh, David Boon, Mark Taylor, Steve Waugh, Dean Jones, Ian Healy, Terry Alderman, Trevor Hohns, Peter Taylor, Tim May, Merv Hughes.

West Indies (probable): Viv Richards (captain), Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes, Richie Richardson, Gus Logie, Carl Hooper, Jeff Dujon, Malcolm Marshall, Curtly Ambrose, Ian Bishop, Courtney Walsh, Roger Harper.

Miandad and Aamer slam President's XI



Miandad: sounds a warning to the Kiwis

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Jan 25, (Reuters): Pakistan's batsmen, headed by Javed Miandad and Aamer Malik, got the batting practice they wanted when the first class section of their tour began against a New Zealand President's XI today.

Miandad sounded a warning to the New Zealand bowlers when he hit two sixes and six fours in making a chanceless 63 in 89 minutes as Pakistan made 302 for six on the first day of the three-day match.

After losing the toss and being asked to bat, Pakistan were given the ideal start by Moin-ul-Atiq and Shoaib Mohammed who put on 96 for the first wicket.

Both then fell to the medium pace of Vaughn Johnson in the space of 17 runs, Moin for 66 and Shoaib for 35. But that brought Miandad and Aamer together and the bowlers came in for some heavy punishment.

Aamer, batting at number three, was slow to start but when Miandad departed he took over and was particularly severe on left-arm spinner Andrew Nuttall, going on to make 88.

Like Miandad he lofted Nuttall twice over the long on boundary. Most of his five fours were through the cover region.

The best of the President's XI bowlers was Johnson, who came into the side as a late replacement for Gary Robertson. Johnson finished with two for 47 from 23 overs.

Scoreboard
PAKISTAN first innings
Moin-ul-Atiq b Johnson 66
Shoaib Mohammed c Franklin b Johnson 35
Aamer Malik c McSweeney b Bracewell 88
Javed Miandad c McSweeney b Bracewell 63
Rameez Raja c Franklin b Nuttall 0
Ejaz Ahmed c McSweeney b Cairns 2
Imran Khan not out 1
Salim Younis not out 1
Extras (b-4 lb-1 nb-16) 21
Total (for six wickets) 302
Fall of wickets: 1-96 2-113 3-216 4-223 5-290 6-302.
Did not bat: Asghar Javed, Salim Jaffer, Tameez Ahmed.
Bowling to date: Cairns 19-1-84-1 (0nb), Bracewell 28-4-83-2 (4nb), Johnson 23-8-47-2 (3nb), Nuttall 21-5-83-1.

Zarqa score easy victory over Punjab

ZARQA Cricket Club crushed Punjab Farwanis by eight wickets in a friendly match earlier this week.

Punjab, batting first, scored 132 for the loss of six wickets. Bashir and Pervaiz scored 31 runs each while Aslam hit 36.

For Zarqa, Naeem took two wickets while Azam, Shahzad and Ijaz got one each.

Excellent
Zarqa in reply faced no difficulty in getting the required runs as Shahid Butt was in excellent form. Shahid hit an unbeaten 109 as his team crossed the victory target for the loss of only two wickets.

Shahid Butt

Shahid hammered five sixes and 14 fours in his innings. Shahzad remained unbeaten on 14. For Punjab, Tariq and Aslam took one wicket each.

Shahid Butt was named Man of the Match.

World Tour
PALM DESERT, California, Jan 25, (AP): Arnold Palmer, one of golf's most respected elder statesmen, said the creation of a World Tour is necessary for the continued development of the game.

Karam adds, "I didn't think we would finish so high. I thought maybe we would be in the top ten if we were lucky."

"We are very happy with this result," adds Sayafe. "We have beaten professionals from around the world." There is also a measure of satisfaction that where, when the Dubians first came to race here they were the experts, Kuwaitis have now beaten them. "Now we teach them."

"I didn't expect there would be so many boats. The Dubai club get a great deal of help from the government. I can't thank them enough for their help," finished Sayafe.

Both Karam and Sayafe stress that in any boat there are two men, the driver and the throttleman. Both, they say, are equally important. If Karam is steering well but Sayafe makes a mistake and damages the engines, they could not do well. Similarly, if Sayafe is throttling well, but Karam is steering them in the wrong direction they will not bring a good result.

Pressure
Karam is not joining the other Kuwaitis in Jordan due to pressure of work, but Sayafe will be joining Khaled Al Khaled as throttleman. "I will get my own boat again soon," explains Sayafe, but even when I do I will continue to throttle, and find someone else to drive. This sport is 100 per cent teamwork."

Both men are 24 years old, and have given Kuwait its first international result in this new, but growing sport.

Four Kuwaitis, Mishal Al Jarallah, Khaled Al Khaled, Khalifa Al Qatami and Ahmed Al Ansari are on their way to Jordan for the kingdom's first race, to be held on Friday.

Nadim and Patel help Sporting reach final

BROTHERS Sporting reached the final of the President's Trophy cricket tournament, organised by the Gulf Cricket League, at the EPI new ground earlier this week.

Sporting beat CCK on better run-rate in the 27 overs-a-side match.

After winning the toss, Sporting opted to bat and opened their innings through skipper Qamruzzaman and Nadim who took the score to 77 before the former was out for 30.

Allotted
The other Sporting batsmen could not last long and Sporting managed only 140 for the loss of nine wickets in the 27 allotted overs.

Nadim was the top scorer with 55 while Kamal hit 15. For CCK, Faisal, Riaz Mir, Shaikat and Amanullah took two wickets each while Sayeed got one wicket.

CCK got a good start from Zaher Sr and Raees who put on 64 runs for the first wicket before the latter was out for 31. After this initial success, CCK started losing quick wickets and could manage only 121 for the loss of nine wickets in 25 overs before time was called.

As Sporting had scored 135 at the same stage of their innings, they were declared winners on a better run-rate. Zaher Sr scored 39, Zaher Jr 13 and Raza Meer 14.

For Sporting, Kanti Patel took three wickets while Manoj Patel, Qamaruzzaman and Arshad got two wickets each.

QMCC edge Punjab
QUAID-e-MILLAT Cricket Club (QMCC) defeated Punjab Farwanis by one wicket in a Mirat Trophy match at the Airport ground on Friday afternoon.

Batting first, Punjab Farwanis were all out for only 99 runs in 17 overs. Javed Amjad was the top scorer with an unbeaten 25. Sarwar hit 14, Aslam 13 and Amer 12.

For QMCC, Javed took four wickets for 16 while Dilaver picked up two scalps.

In reply, QMCC were given a good start with their openers putting on 44 runs for the first wicket. But after the fall of the first wicket, QMCC collapsed to 95 for the loss of nine wickets.

Rising win seven-a-side title

HOSTS Rising Stars won the inaugural seven-a-side football tournament held at the Sour grounds earlier this week.

Rising Stars had to overcome a number of teams before they beat Morjekar 5-4 in the final. In the earlier matches, Rising beat Strike Force 8-9, Al Othman and Tivim Boys.

Morjekar reached the final with victories over Arax, City Stars and GCA.

The final was a very close affair with both sides putting on a splendid show. Morjekar, with some of the best players from other teams, found it hard

to break through the strong Rising defense marshalled around Wolfgang and Sunil Putran in the initial stage.

Rising's Ajaz, Isaac, Javed and Harpal Singh also played well while goalkeeper Rony did well to keep the number of goals to the minimum.

Missed
Morjekar were unlucky not to win the match in the normal time when Cajetan and Castano missed the target, with the ball hitting the bar on both the occasions.

After both the teams failed to

score in the normal time, the game went into the penalty shoot-out. Rising scored all their shots while Morjekar had one of their shots saved by Rony.

Tony Laming, manager of G.T.R.C. of the Al Ghanim Group gave away the prizes.

Tivim Boys were named the Most Disciplined Team while Isaac Rodriguez was named Best Player of the Tournament. The tournament was organised by Lawrence Pinto, Patrick and Eric. All the matches were officiated by members of the Indian Football Referees Association.

LOCAL CRICKET
Starlite cruise past NBK
STARLITE thrashed National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) by seven wickets to reach the final of the Gulf Air Trophy cricket tournament at the KCL ground on Friday.

Starlite skipper Iqbal Rizvi, after winning the toss, put NBK in to bat but NBK could not master Qayyum's bowling and were restricted to 131 for the loss of seven wickets in their allotted overs.

Ejaz was the top scorer with 51. Qayyum took four wickets for 21 runs in six overs for Starlite.

Iqbal Rizvi and Jameel put on 39 runs in the first five overs before the former was out for 22. Maqsood Sr and Jameel then took the score to 120 before Jameel was out for 67.

Maqsood was also out after scoring 32 runs but the latter batsmen held on and ensured no further loss of wickets as Starlite went past the victory target.

For Hubara, Oliver and Shipton claimed 2 wickets each, conceding 22 and 18 runs respectively. Jimmy James finished with 1 for 26.

For BKME, Ronny Jr was the most successful bowler claiming 3 wickets for 19 runs while Salim & James had 2 wickets, each conceding 30 and 24 runs respectively. Tariq finished with 1 for 6.

BKME opened their innings through "Kamesh" and "Bastaki". Bastaki left soon, caught behind by Jimmy James for 5. Rodney and Kamesh then took the score to 55 before Rodney holed out to Shipton off Oliver for 12. Sethi followed soon, caught by Hassan off Oliver for 4.

Ramesh's fine innings ended when he was given out lbw for 35 (with 6 fours) off Shipton to leave BKME in some sort of trouble but Ronny Sr and Tariq took the score to 95 before Ronny Sr became Shipton's second victim.

James and Tariq then held out to leave BKME victorious by five wickets. Tariq remained unbeaten on 17 while James was 9 not out.

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Tender announcement

Kuwait Industrial Refinery Maintenance and Engineering Co. invites offers from qualified local contractors for lining with Kirby Panels, 25 houses in Mina Abdullah (labour residence) with a total approximate area of 4,300 square metres.

Specifications, terms & conditions

1. 26 gauge Kirby Panels.
2. Erecting the Kirby Panels on wood/metal frames.
3. Shades for airconditioners' openings, windows and doors.
4. Period of contract is one month.
5. Offers to be sent to the company's offices in the Shuaiba Industrial Area, Office of the Managing Director.
6. Offers must be delivered before 12.00 noon on Sunday, Jan 29, 1989.
7. The contractor who will be awarded the tender will have to submit a bank financial guarantee of KD5,000.

For visiting the site, please call Tel. 9021033, Mr. Shiti.

Older players may profit from new curbs on cricketers

LONDON, Jan 25. (Reuters): Older cricketers could cash in on lucrative contracts to join rebel tours of South Africa but younger players may be forced to gamble with their cricketing future following curbs imposed by the sport's governing body.

Former England captain Mike Gatting believes yesterday's decision by the International Cricket Conference (ICC) to ban players from Tests for up to five years if they have future links with South Africa will encourage the republic to offer large sums to entice them there.

"This will mean that there will be even more money knocking around to play in South Africa. Players will be offered very large sums to see out the end of their playing careers there," Gatting said.

Mixture

"It is unfortunate for them that they will go out on a rebellious note."

In the past, the 70 or so English county cricketers who have spent the off-season in South Africa have been a mixture of the experienced and the young.

Now none with Test match aspirations will dare go there but players approaching the end of their international careers may disregard possible punishment and head for a final payday.

Joe Parnes, president of the non-racial South African Cricket Union (SACU), reacted to the ICC decision by saying more unofficial tours of the republic were being planned.

In the past eight years rebel teams from England, Sri Lanka, West Indies and Australia have ignored international sporting boycotts of South Africa to tour — with punishments from their own cricket boards ranging from a three-year ban to life.

World cricket chiefs were today congratulating themselves on finally reaching agreement after years of dispute.

England had resisted penalties on individual cricketers for playing or coaching in South Africa. West Indies had sought a life ban.

"This will keep international cricket from now on free of any uncertainty," said Field Marshal Lord Bramall, chairman of the ICC.

The cricket officials have reached agreement but the problem hardly looks likely to go away.

Legal

Their first challenge may come in the courts, with a civil liberties organisation considering legal action on the contention that the ruling is a restraint of trade under British law.

While the ICC has granted an amnesty to those who have had South African links in the past and set April 1 as the date from which new transgression will be punished, others may not so easily forget or forgive. There is no guarantee that governments will do likewise.

England captain Graham Gooch, who was skipper of the rebel England team to South Africa, pointed out recently: "Governments issue visas, not cricket boards. Who is to say governments won't still hack back to old events? What is to say anything will change?"

It was the selection of Gooch and seven others with South African links that caused the cancellation of England's planned tour of India recently. The Indian government refused to grant visas.

Pakistan followed up by refusing to play England in a hastily arranged triangular tournament in New Zealand for the same reason.

It was the abandonment of those two tours that caused England's Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) to alter its stance, the dawning realisation that unless compromise was reached England could be left with no Test cricket at all.

Not even traditional allies Australia and New Zealand could be relied on to resist international and internal anti-apartheid pressure and continue playing an England team filled with South African-linked players.

Decay

That in turn would have bankrupted the county clubs, who receive half their income from Test match receipts, and in the end caused the decay of the game in England.

County cricketers, although unhappy with the situation, have mostly, although reluctantly, accepted the decision.

South African-born England batsman Robin Smith said he was disappointed at the outcome because he would still love to be able to play in his homeland.

"But I would be absolutely stupid to jeopardise my England career now by going back to play in South Africa," he said.

EDBERG WITHDRAWS FROM AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Lendl brushes aside McEnroe

MELBOURNE, Jan 25. (Reuters): Ivan Lendl is firm favourite to claim his first Australian Open title after sweeping aside John McEnroe in a near-flawless display of baseline tennis during today's quarterfinals.

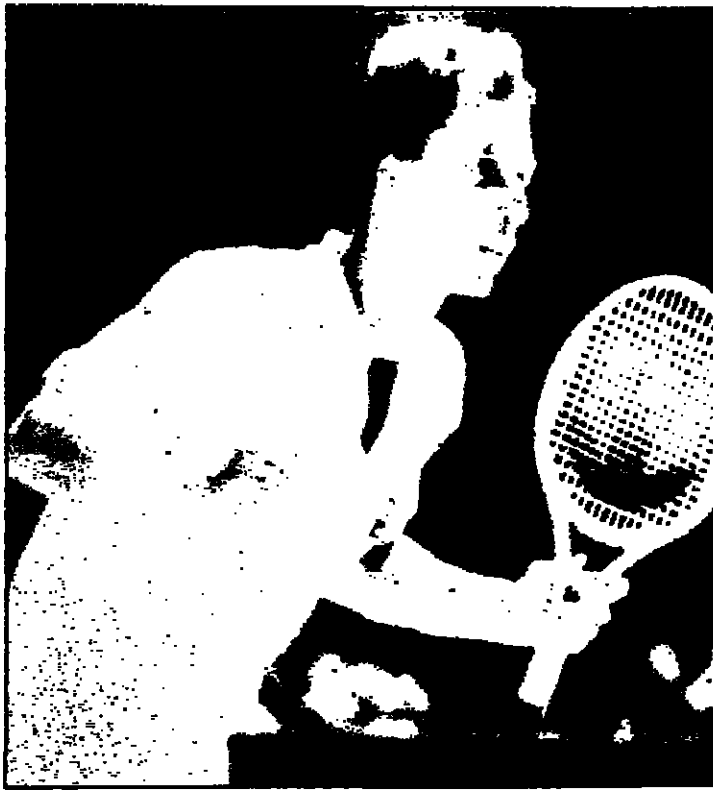
Lendl, a losing semifinalist at the last three Opens, crushed McEnroe 7-6 6-2 7-6 to reach a last four populated solely by European players for only the second time in the championship's history.

Serious

The Czechoslovak number two seed meets Austrian Thomas Muster, who was practising with Lendl when he heard his quarter-final opponent Stefan Edberg had withdrawn with a back injury.

Edberg, who suffered a muscle spasm in the dying stages of his straight-sets defeat of Australia's Pat Cash yesterday, decided the risk of serious injury was too great to play.

The other semifinal on Friday pitted Miloslav Mecir, seeded ninth, against Sweden's Jan Gunnarsson, who claimed his second success over a seeded player by defeating fellow-countryman Jonas Svensson 6-0 6-3 6-6-4.



Lendl shows jubilation after defeating McEnroe. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mecir, the Olympic champion, who has not met a seed on his path to his fourth Grand Slam

semifinal, ended the fine run of 17-year-old Yugoslav qualifier Goran Ivanisevic 7-5 6-0 6-3.

The Australian Open and Wimbledon are the two Grand Slam crowns Lendl has still to win. But the right-hander is being deliberately low-key about his chances despite a performance today which McEnroe called among the best by Lendl he had ever seen.

"It is doubtful whether any player other than world number one Mats Wilander at the peak of his form could have stayed with Lendl on a boiling centre court."

McEnroe by no means played badly but he was repeatedly left standing by his opponent, who hit winners at will from the baseline, especially with his backhand.

In his first quarterfinal since the 1987 US Open, McEnroe never gained a break point, and his attempt to stand up and hit Lendl's all-conquering first serve proved a failure.

Apart from a few typical McEnroe touches at the net, Lendl was a superior player in every department, rock solid but still able to thread unbelievable winners past his bemused opponent.

McEnroe stayed with him in a tense first set until the tiebreak, when Lendl took off into another plane of tennis where mistakes

are unknown.

He won the tiebreak 7-0 and won 15 out of 16 points to take a 2-0 lead in the second set. The hot streak eventually cooled but by then McEnroe was all but finished, his dream of claiming his first Grand Slam victory since 1985 over the man who deposed him as world number one in ruins.

Ivanisevic failed to show the form on centre court he had displayed on the outer courts, breezing to a 3-0 lead in the first set before nerves set in.

Consecutive

Mecir began to hit a perfect length with monotonous regularity and Ivanisevic's game fell apart under the pressure. He lost 11 consecutive games to drop the second set 6-0 and fall 3-0 behind in the third to the wily Czechoslovak who has yet to be truly tested in five matches here.

Mecir has played three times against Gunnarsson, who profited from Svensson suffering an emotional let-down after his defeat of third seed Boris Becker in the fourth round.

Mecir won their last meeting on clay at Stuttgart 6-0 6-2 and a similar result is expected on Friday.

Canadian golf veteran dies

TORONTO, Jan 25. (Reuters) George Knudson, whom Ben Hogan once described as having the sweetest swing on the PGA Tour, died yesterday after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 51.

A hospital spokesman declined to give details but Knudson, Canada's outstanding pro golfer of the 1960s and 1970s, had been undergoing treatment for lung cancer since June 1987.

Knudson joined the PGA Tour in 1959 and earned more than \$530,000 in his 21-year career. He was inducted into the Canadian golf Hall of Fame in 1985.

Bahrain tipped to win rugby classic

SHARJAH, UAE: The 12th annual Sharjah Floodlit Rugby tournament starts at 3.20pm this afternoon, when the home side captained by Mark Grennell take on the French Navy side De Grasse.

In all ten games are scheduled for today, with the finals taking place tomorrow.

Of the twelve sides participating in this popular 15-a-side tournament, Bahrain are emerging as early favourites along with Muscat and Dubai. The Bahrain side who missed the Sharjah classic last year, currently lead the Merit

table. Bahrain, winners of the Dubai 7's, will represent the Gulf in Hong Kong later this year.

"It appears that all the team's are fairly well matched," said Tony Mousoulides, managing director of Geco Mechanical and Electrical, the main sponsors.

Dubai, who have been hampered by injuries this season, are expected to be going all out to win the Geco Cup. Their side includes the former UK club players, Chris King (ex-Waterloo) and Brian Watt (ex-Richmond). Abu Dhabi captained by Murray Wright, are

also confident of a good showing.

Saudi Arabia, who will be represented by Jeddah/Al Marai, will make their second appearance in Sharjah this year, having made it to the semifinals in their debut visit. Their captain Andy Wilson, in advance of arrival, here stated that they will be looking for a top result.

Muscat are one of the strongest side in the Gulf. Their side includes such seasoned campaigners as Keith Sargent, John Fidler, Bob Driver and John Guthrie, who are well capable of

securing top honours.

"The only side who are missing are Kuwait," said Sharjah chairman Bill Cowen. "However, we are expecting two of our players to join the Gulf selection side."

In addition to the Geco Cup, the other major awards are the Intercare Plate, Benson and Hedges Bowl and M.M.I. 'Man of the Tournament' Award.

The finals of the later two competitions take place at 3.00pm and 3.45 pm respectively tomorrow. In all, 21 games are scheduled over the two days.

Hawks beat Cavaliers

NEW YORK, Jan 25. (AP): Dominique Wilkins scored 41 points, equalling his season high, and hit a key 3-point goal in the fourth period in powering the Atlanta Hawks to a 121-105 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers last night.

The victory was Atlanta's fourth in a row and snapped a five-game winning streak by the Cavaliers.

Wilkins made 17 of 24 shots, including three 3-point goals without miss. Moses Malone added 21 points while Larry Nance led the Cavaliers with 28.

Nets 117, Nuggets 115
Buck Williams scored a season-high 27 points and the New Jersey Nets held off a late Denver spurt to hand the Nuggets their fourth straight loss.

Results
Atlanta 121 Cleveland 105
New Jersey 117 Denver 115
Seattle 103 Portland 100
Chicago 109 Dallas 91
Houston 118 Miami 93
Phoenix 106 Charlotte 103
New York 122 Los Angeles 111
Milwaukee 114 Sacramento 110

Scotland name unchanged side

EDINBURGH, Jan 25. (Reuters): Scotland have retained the side who defeated Wales 23-7 in their opening Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match on Saturday for the Calcutta Cup clash with England at Twickenham on February 4.

Fullback Peter Dods, who kicked eight points and had a fine all-round match, keeps his place ahead of Gavin Hastings. First choice Hastings has not yet recovered fully from a groin strain.

World Cup

LONDON, Jan 25. (Reuters): Australia and New Zealand are to host the fifth World Cup in 1992, the International Cricket Conference (ICC) decided at their meeting yesterday.

The other candidates for the limited overs competition had been India and Pakistan, who jointly staged the previous tournament in 1987 won by Australia.

England staged the first three World Cups in 1975, 1979 and 1983.

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RESULTS of the Dubai Bridge Tournament (16th week) held at the Kuwait International Hotel on Monday:

N/S
1. Choudhury & Fazel
2. Tawil & Saeid
3. Dr Farid & Simon

E/W
1. Imma Ali & Mukherjee
2. Dr Magdi & Taji
3. Mrs Sagar & Qattan

The final round of the competition will be held next Monday at the Kuwait International Hotel. The prize distribution will be held the next day at the Sheraton Hotel.

Results of the Sheraton Bridge Club game played on Tuesday:

N/S
1. Mr & Mrs Fazel
2. Dr Farid & Saeid
3. Mohammed Hakeel & Shadia Bayoumi

Results of the SAS Bridge Club game on Sunday:

1st Nabil Akel & Lella Marwan
2nd Samir Cattermole & Clara Rustore
3rd Subhan Oskay & Nida Khalaf

The Regency Ladies Bridge Club held its bi-annual tournament yesterday morning. The results were as follows:

1. Jassim Akel & Margaret Rob-Whitaker
2. Nabil Akel & Lella Marwan
3. Nicola Iskander & Rima Farah

Results of the Middle East Bridge Club game played on Monday:

1. Maritza Griffiths & Margaret Maynard
2. Nabil Akel & Lella Marwan
3rd: Nida Al-Rumayh & Dora Marwan

Results of the Regency Bridge Club game played on Sunday:

1. Abdullahi Daudi & Sherin Bayoumi
2. Wilma Khadra & Adly Taji
3. Mohammed Sabri & Samir El Said



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